

20p
Today only



THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

Saturday 20 September 1997

20p (IR 20p) No. 3,407 **

Southall, 1.15pm, Friday 19 September 1997. It's happened again.



Chaos and carnage: The crash scene in west London yesterday, which left six dead and 13 seriously injured after a packed passenger train from Swansea and a freight train collided

Photograph: Brian Harris

Six people died, 13 were seriously injured and a further 150 were described as "walking wounded" yesterday after one of Britain's worst rail crashes. **Steve Boggan, Kathy Marks, Randeep Ramesh and Christian Wolmar** describe the tragic scene and examine the reasons for the collision

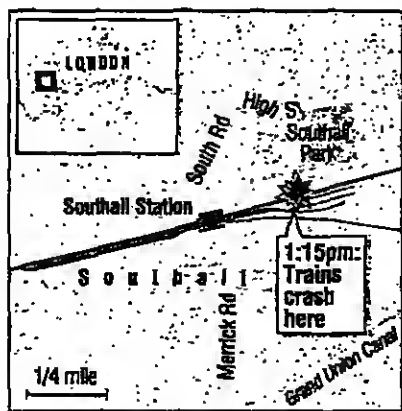
Survivors of the Southall crash described scenes of "carnage" last night as a public inquiry was promised into the cause of an accident that should have been impossible. Passengers on the 10.32am Great Western Swansea-Paddington service had to dodge live electricity cables and climb over bodies. But Railtrack bosses confirmed that a "fail-safe" system was on trial on that stretch of track. They would not say, however, whether it was switched on.

The accident happened at 1.15pm a quarter of a mile east of Southall station

in west London. The passenger train clipped the eighth of the goods train's 20 wagons, derailling at least four packed carriages and crushing many of those inside. Trials had been under way of the Automatic Train Protection system, recommended in the official report into the Clapham rail disaster in 1988, in which 35 people died. The system is supposed to make it impossible for a driver to ignore a signal set at danger, prompting speculation that the system was not in operation.

Last night the Prime Minister and the Queen sent messages of condolence, while the Health and Safety Executive took the unusual step of announcing a full public inquiry to run parallel with the Railways Inspectorate's own.

Some of those on board were journalists returning from the vote on Welsh devolution. One, BBC researcher Nick Sutton, said: "As I walked off the train, I saw a body lying by the side of the tracks. No one was touching it. His shirt was ripped and there was blood all over him ... Everyone was shocked. There was a real-



ly strong smell. I don't know if it was the brakes or if it was from hitting a goods train. It was nerve-racking, especially seeing the body."

Unconfirmed reports said the train braked hard at between 60mph and 90mph after passing through a green light as the goods train was crossing at an acute angle on to another section of track. The Swansea train had eight coaches - two first-

class at the front, followed by a buffet car and standard-class carriages to the rear.

Both drivers escaped without injury; 16 passengers remained trapped for two hours. Last night 13 people were described as seriously injured but only a few others remained in hospital. Nevertheless, the death-toll made it the worst rail crash since Clapham. Michael Rudolph, medical director of Ealing Hospital, where many injured were taken, said: "The scene has been described to me as looking like a major aircraft disaster - carnage."

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, promised a full inquiry. Questions will centre on the most likely causes: driver error, faulty signals or train derailling. Mr Prescott visited the scene. "It's terrible. Horrific," he said. The Health and Safety Executive inquiry was being made public, in line with Labour's policy of more openness.

David Eves, the executive's deputy director-general, said: "Our investigation into this collision began immediately. Railway inspectors are making detailed inquiries into the technical causes of the accident

and into the actions of railway staff immediately prior to the collision. Our investigation is complex and detailed and will continue until we have found the reason for the accident."

Andy Hancock, acting director of Railtrack's south-western region, said the goods train was travelling on a relief line towards Southall yard. The collision took place on a set of points, at Southall East Junction, as the goods train crossed the track to enter the yard. "It's far too early to speculate on what caused the accident."

The London Ambulance Service sent 15 ambulances and 15 other transporters to the scene. Injured people were taken to Ealing Hospital, Central Middlesex Hospital, West Middlesex Hospital and Hillingdon Hospital.

One woman suffered spinal injuries and a fractured hip, and a man received arm, leg and spinal injuries. Another man with head and chest injuries was taken by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel.

Tony Mair, one of the first people to arrive at the scene, said: "We saw sparks and then there was a very loud bang and a ball of smoke. It was like very loud fireworks. I was there in under a minute. The train was lying on its side and people were wandering outside, with blood pouring from their faces."

"Two police officers were trying to warn us about [the possibility of] fallen power lines, but we were just worried about getting to help the people. There was nothing we could do to help people in the second and third carriages. My first impression was there were four bodies on the track."

Scotland Yard issued an emergency number for relatives last night - they should call: 0171-834-7777.

Further reports and pictures, page 3



THE NEW PAPER

This has been a vital and exhilarating week for *The Independent*. We have been delighted by the letters flooding in with praise for our new look and by the excited reaction in the market. Sales this week jumped by about 30 per cent and we attracted - at a conservative estimate - 70,000 new buyers. Many who have been with other papers have already told us they now intend to switch to the new *Independent*. Today, as for the past few days, we have of course been selling at a trial price of 20p. We are an ordinary commercial company, though. We are not able, and do not want, to engage in unfair pricing: we have no sugar-daddies pulling our strings. So from Monday we sell at the normal broadsheet price of 45p and we think you will find next week's *Independent* excellent value for money. So to new readers - welcome. And to old readers - thank you for sticking with us through the difficult times.

TODAY'S NEWS

The muted Welsh 'Yes'

Both sides in the Welsh devolution referendum had something to celebrate yesterday. The 'Yes' campaigners were trumpeting the victory that means legislation to set up an assembly in Cardiff will now go ahead. But the 'No' campaign, led by the Conservative leader William Hague and Labour dissidents, was able to point to the low turnout and the tiny majority as proof that Wales is far less enthusiastic about devolution than Scotland. They will use the poll's result as ammunition in the coming parliamentary session.

Page 4

Exclusive - the Spanish plot

The former Prime Minister John Major, and his friend, the former Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, have been dosed this week at the remote Spanish villa of Tristan Garel-Jones, once a Foreign Office minister and one of the Tory party's most famous plotters. At Westminster, MPs suspect that they are hatching a scheme to return Mr Patten to British politics so that he can challenge for the Conservative leadership. Or is it, as the jovial trio claim, simply a happy holiday? Anthony Bevis, our political editor, asked them what was going on. Page 5

IN TODAY'S FIVE-SECTION PAPER

ISM/our great new culture magazine

TIME OFF/ 24 pages of sport, travel & leisure

YOUR MONEY/ 12 pages of personal finance, property & cars
THE EYE/ your weekly entertainment guide



2 FREE MAGAZINES
PROMOTION/15

ملف من الأدب

2/BRIEFING

INDEX

5/WALES

There's something for everyone in the Welsh devolution referendum. It wasn't terminal for the Conservatives; yet Tony Blair and Labour can claim a significant success.

7/CHARITY

The American media billionaire, Ted Turner (below), has decided to give one billion dollars to the United Nations. Mr Turner has dared his fellow plutocrats to follow suit, and show that they care more about the world than their bank balances.



9/CHINA

President Jiang Zemin triumphed overwhelmingly at the Communist Party Congress.

But economic reform is increasingly dividing his country into three separate nations, as the coastal areas become super-rich while the agricultural west and the industrial centre stagnate.



11/BALKANS

Six months ago, it seemed that massive demonstrations had sealed his fate. Slobodan Milosevic, the arch-manipulator of Serbia, has succeeded in dividing the opposition ahead of elections in the country this week-end.

13/DIPLOMACY

The Foreign Office opened its doors to outsiders, holding an open day as part of an effort to show it is no longer the stuffy, conventional place that it once was.

14,15/STYLE

Hussein Chalayan is one of our hottest designer exports. Yet at the eleventh hour, he was left without a sponsor to fund his show at London Fashion Week.



18/ARTS AND MEDIA

Dennis Marks, the Director of English National Opera, has shocked the music world by resigning.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.16	Italy (lira)	2,723.00
Austria (schillings)	19.53	Japan (yen)	193.43
Belgium (francs)	57.36	Malta (lira)	0.61
Canada (\$)	2.18	Netherlands (guilders)	3.13
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Norway (kroner)	11.34
Denmark (kroner)	10.65	Portugal (escudos)	280.59
France (francs)	9.33	Spain (pesetas)	233.73
Germany (marks)	2.79	Sweden (kroner)	11.94
Greece (drachmes)	442.26	Switzerland (francs)	2.30
Hong Kong (\$)	12.06	Turkey (lira)	262,833.00
Ireland (pence)	1.04	USA (\$)	1.57

THE INDEPENDENT

Read online every day on AOL.
Call 0800 376 5376
for FREE software -
quote "Independent"



**NEWSPAPERS
SUPPORT RECYCLING**
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of
the raw material for UK newspapers
in the first half of 1996

PEOPLE



Brickies build their own West End gamble with star of EastEnders

Nicola Stapleton, who played the teenager Mandy in the soap opera EastEnders, has achieved a first in west end theatre - she has persuaded a gang of building site workers to become 'angels' and invest in a new play in which she is starring.

Fourteen plasterers, painters, carpenters and labourers are setting the precedent by becoming associate investors. They have put £5000 into Scissor Happy, a comedy opening next month at the Duchess Theatre, which will be different every night. In another unprecedented move for West End theatre the audience is invited to play detective, ask the murder suspect who include Nicola Stapleton, questions, vote on who the murderer is, and then that ending is played out.

Nicola Stapleton plays a hairdresser, and the murder is committed above her salon.

Ellis Elias, who is co-producing the show, is also a property developer and the employer of the building site workers in Clerkenwell, London. He said:

"I was talking to them about this play, they became interested and said they wanted to invest in it but didn't have enough money. So I suggested

that instead of investing individually, they club together. Fourteen of them have done that and bought two £2500 units. Yesterday Miss Stapleton visited the building workers to thank them for their faith in her.

In investing in a West End play the building workers are taking a gamble with high odds attached. Nick Salmon, chief executive of the Theatre Investment Fund which helps new producers, said: "It is a very high risk. The majority of productions fail to recoup all the capital invested. But if you get a hit show you can make a lot of money very quickly."

Even if the show has a long and successful run, investors are unlikely to do better than triple their money. Anything less than a long run could see them losing the lot. But the glamour of being involved with a West End show, going to the first night and getting to know the stars means there are many people keen to invest.

Sometimes individuals invest and sometimes consortia. Mr Salmon said: "Producers tend to keep their lists secret because they don't want rivals to pinch their investors."

—David Lister

Bodyguard cannot remember the night Diana died

The bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones (right) can remember nothing of the car accident which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, in Paris three weeks ago, it emerged yesterday.

In a half-hour interview with the chief investigating judge, Mr Rees-Jones was unable to give any useful new information on the events leading to the crash in the early hours of 31 August.

Although the former para-trooper may still recover some memory of the night's events, his present amnesia is a serious blow to the investigation into Diana's death. It was hoped that Mr Rees-Jones, 29, the only survivor of the crash, might provide early answers to the two, great outstanding questions. Did the driver, Henri Paul, show any obvious signs of the large quantities of drink, and at least two prescription drugs he had taken that night? Did the Mercedes, in which Diana's party was travelling, strike or swerve to avoid another car before colliding with a central reservation pillar in an underpass beside the Seine?

All details of the judge's investigation are supposed to be strictly secret under French law. But within half an hour of the judge leaving the hospital, Pitié



Salpêtrière, sources close to the investigation told the French news agency Agence France Presse that Mr Rees-Jones was suffering from amnesia. Further interviews would be arranged, the sources said, but the first meeting had yielded no useful information.

It remains unclear whether Mr Rees-Jones, who suffered grave facial injuries, has yet recovered his powers of speech.

The Paris newspaper, France-Soir, yesterday splashed on its front page a picture, taken from the Internet, purporting to show Diana lying in the wreckage of the Mercedes just after the accident. The picture was dismissed by the city's emergency

services and sources in the investigation as a fake. Ambulance men or policemen, vaguely visible in the picture, are wearing British-style uniforms.

• The Prince of Wales yesterday spoke for the first time in public about the grief experienced by his two sons and himself after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "I think [the princess] are handling a very difficult time with enormous courage and greatest possible dignity," he told businessmen and community leaders in Manchester at the first public engagement since the death of his former wife. His words brought heartfelt applause and words of approval.

—John Lichfield, Paris

Millionaire hires MORI to find out just what his neighbours think of him

Ever wondered what your neighbours think of you? Urs Schwzenbach was so curious that he commissioned a MORI poll to find out just what his neighbours thought of his jet-setting lifestyle.

Multi-millionaire Mr Schwzenbach lives in a lavish mansion house in Lower Stiplake near Henley-on-Thames. For the past seven years the Swiss financier has courted controversy with his neighbours by landing helicopters at his Harpsden estate.

According to Mrs Joan Ritchie, a neighbour, interviewers from MORI had been there all week. "I was a bit thrown by it, she said, "but they have obviously been to everyone in our road."

Residents were quizzed on their views about aircraft noise, pollution and their perceptions of Mr Schwzenbach. They were not told who had commissioned the survey and some felt that they had been tricked.

Mrs Susan Crawford, of Harpsden Woods, Henley-on-Thames, said: "I feel as if I have been absolutely duped. A woman came to the door and told me she was just doing a questionnaire on air pollution."

Hamish Hale, who has already had to move

house once because of the helicopter said yesterday that he understood the financier had ordered the survey to try to establish how many people objected to the huge Sigorsky.

Dr Hale admitted however, that he was slightly biased against the millionaire after he sold his own house seven years ago, due to the noise of the helicopter, only to find that the new landing site is now at the bottom of the garden of his new house. Along with former Tomorrow's World presenter Raymond Baxter, Dr Hale is one of the leading lights in the villagers anti-chopper campaign.

"The helicopter's downblast used to cover our house and the cars with dust and leaves," he said. "I once had a do in the garden, the helicopter came over and we were all covered in dust and debris."

"We think that he uses it to ferry his polo team around," said Mr Baxter. "Under planning law he's not allowed to do that."

Mr Schwzenbach was unavailable for comment yesterday but issued a statement through his agent, Ayre Maunsell, who said his client was keen to determine the "degree of concern among the whole neighbourhood."

—Katy Weitz and Rupert Holden

UPDATE

HEALTH

Diabetes rate doubles in children

Diabetes in children under five has doubled in ten years and an environmental factor is almost certainly the cause, doctors say. A study in the Oxford region also found that diabetes in older children under 15 was increasing at a rate of 4 per cent a year.

Possible causes include exposure to cow's milk early in life or to vaccinations, but the researchers, writing in the *British Medical Journal*, note that it is "difficult to explain the apparently remorseless increase in incidence over three decades on any of these grounds".

Professor Gale, chief author of the study, said: "The results are very dramatic. An increase on such a scale cannot be put down to genetic factors alone. The cause must therefore be environmental." Diabetes in early childhood has a greater impact on the patients and their families and a worse prognosis for complications in later life, he said.

—Jeremy Lawrence

SOCIETY

Cost of youth crime in Scotland

Youth crime in Scotland costs at least £730m a year, according to a report published yesterday by The Prince's Trust.

Around 350,000 crimes, almost 40 per cent of all those recorded north of the border, are committed by people under the age of 20, the survey by consultancy firm Coopers & Lybrand discovered. "This is a huge cost to Scotland and we believe that by acting on just some of the recommendations in the report that real savings and benefits can be achieved," said Arwyn Thomas, director of Prince's Trust-Action. The report's recommendations, aimed at the Scottish Office, police forces and councils, include: a recognition that effective youth work can prevent crime, a programme of youth work with "explicit" crime prevention objectives; police involvement in evaluating the effectiveness of local youth projects; and consideration of the impact of council policies on young people.

NATURE

Bird population on the rise

The bird population in Britain has boomed over the past two years, according to a big survey. Between 1994, when the Breeding Birds Survey was established, and 1996, 36 of the more common species increased, 48 were stable and 15 declined in number.

Among those on the up were the grey partridge and the bullfinch, both of which have given conservationists cause for concern because of sustained decline over several decades. Among the declines were two birds of prey, the sparrowhawk and the kestrel, and the swift, wren and mistle thrush. The survey is carried out by 2,000 binocular-wielding volunteers who look out for birds in a big sample of one-by-one hectare squares scattered across Britain, from uplands to city centres.

• Breeding Bird Survey, 1995-96, £5, from the BTO, The Nunnery, Theford, Norfolk IP24 2PU, Tel: 01842 750050.

—Nicholas Schoon

SCIENCE

Farmers to field a driverless tractor

A driverless tractor steered by satellite that can find its own way around a crop field with pinpoint precision could help to usher in a "third agricultural revolution", it was claimed yesterday. Researchers at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, expect the tractor to be the first of a new generation of fully automated farm and construction vehicles.

The 20,000 lbs tractor is guided by the Global Positioning System (GPS). 24 navigational satellites originally designed for the US military. Ultimately the system, described at the Institute of Navigation's GPS-97 conference in Kansas City, may lead to the development of "robot" tractors that a farmer can command from an office. Such precision agriculture is expected to improve farm productivity while reducing the use of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides.

CATCH IT!

The Complete Encyclopaedia of English Cricket on CD-ROM

Save
£5

ONLY
£24.99
RRP £29.99

CRICKET

A CELEBRATION OF SUMMER'S GREATEST GAME

Featuring the Nat West Trophy Quiz

CALL Our Credit Card Hotline NOW on
01483 204411

Please Quote MED007 When Calling

This CD-ROM offer now includes 1 month's free AOL Web Membership PLUS 50 FREE hours online

مكتبة من الصحف

Have the lessons of Clapham still not been learnt?

The exact cause of the disaster will not be known until the inquiry results in several months' time, but Christian Wolmar and Randeep Ramesh suggest possible reasons why the 10.32 Swansea to Paddington service ended in tragedy.

Speculation on the cause of Britain's worst rail disaster in nearly 10 years is likely to centre on why the freight train was in the path of the High Speed Train travelling at

close to 90mph. From early reports, it appears that the freight train was partly blocking the line where the high-speed train was travelling, although the power car at the front of the HST was relatively undamaged. This suggests that the HST hit the freight train with a glancing blow, which then opened up the sides of several carriages and caused them to jump the tracks.

There are two possible reasons. Either the freight train had not cleared the tracks which left the last wagon of the 35 or so still in the way of the HST, or possibly it rolled back very slightly after it had passed, just enough to clip the HST train. Alternatively, the HST simply went

flying through the red, though most railway experts discount this theory because the train has an automatic warning system which sounds a horn as soon as it goes through any signal that is not a green. The driver then has to cancel the signal, or the train will stop automatically.

One possible explanation, according to Mel Holley of Rail magazine is that the driver had to go through a lot of yellow signals as there was a train in front of him going about the same speed. He said: "There is always a double-yellow and a yellow preceding a red stop signal. The driver might have had to cancel a lot of double-yellow signals and did not notice that

suddenly there was a yellow and then a red."

The inquiry team will want to look at several questions: Why was the freight train allowed to pass in front of the HST, while normally it would not have been allowed to pass?

If the HST did not go through the red - and the double-yellow and yellow which preceded it - and the signal for it was green, why was the freight train still on the fast track?

Did the freight train derail or had it cleared the points and then rolled back?

Railtrack was not prepared to speculate on the cause of the crash. "The incident occurred a quarter of a mile east of Southall

station where the passenger train travelling towards London struck the side of the freight train," said a spokesman.

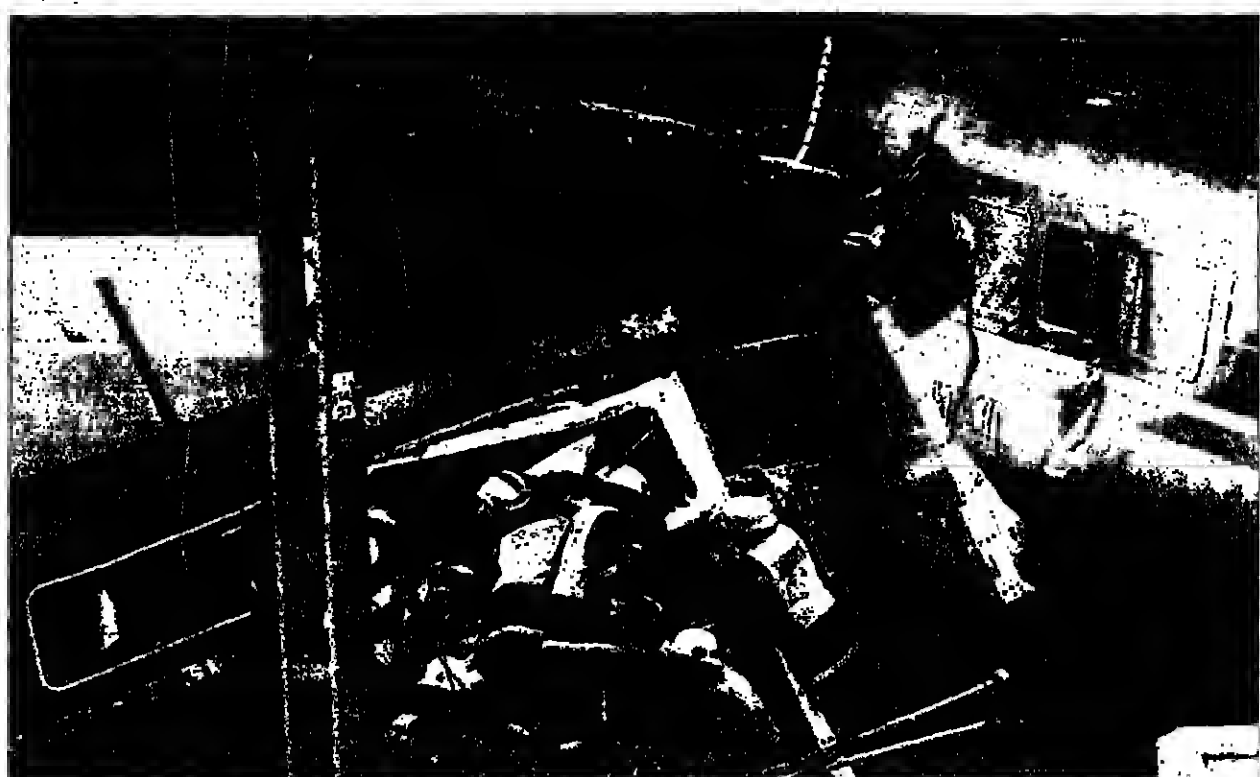
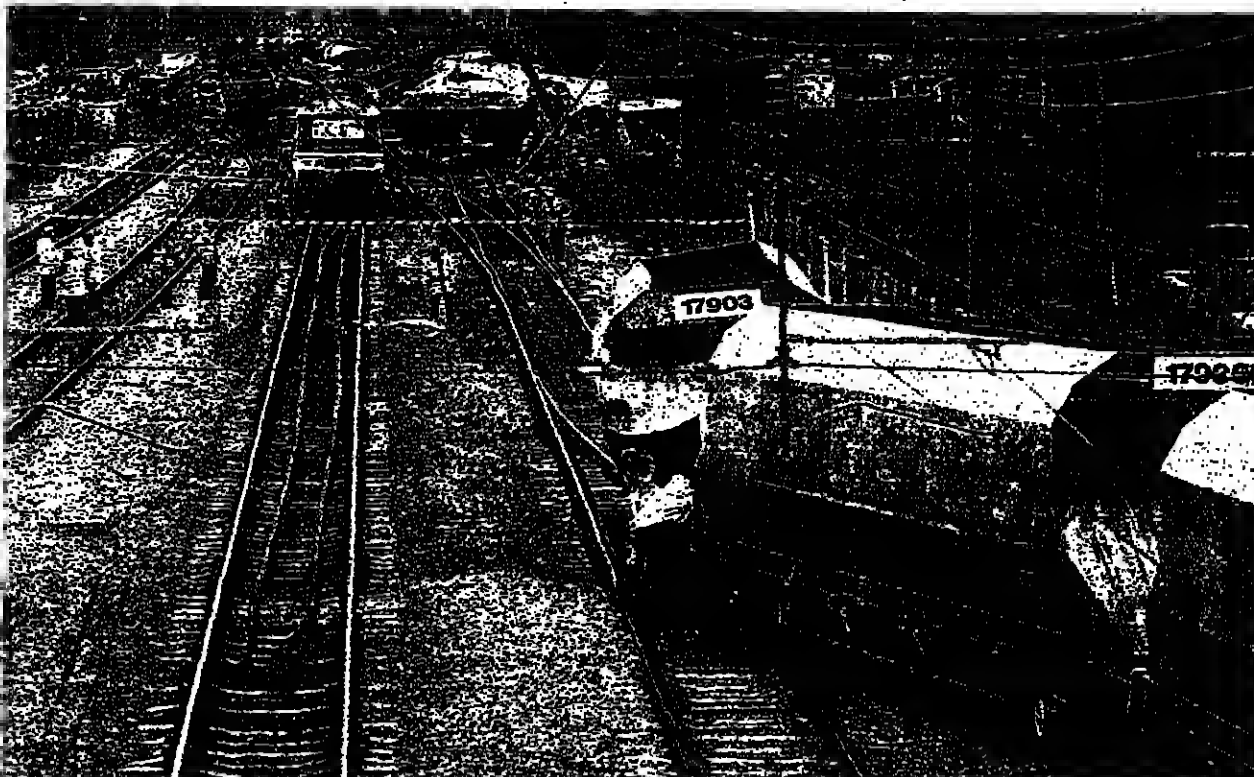
Piecing together the events will be the job of the Health and Safety Executive. It will also be looking at the possibility of signal failure.

Joginder Bhatia, who was working nearby and was one of the first people to reach the scene, said that one of the rescuers said it looked like a signal had failed on the line, adding: "The [HST] train was given a green light when the other train had still not cleared the track."

One former British Rail safety manager pointed out that lives might have been

saved had the railways installed automatic train protection (ATP) systems. Peter Rayner, who led safety investigations for BR, pointed out that the systems - which had been recommended after the Clapham train inquiry - had been dropped because of cost considerations. "The line was used as a test bed for the early ATP devices but is not clear how much of the fleet had the system installed," he said.

Roger Ford, editor of Rail Privatisation News, said that this "side-swipe" type of accident was the worst kind of railway disaster. "Unlike a head to head collision where the energy is absorbed by the structure, this type of glancing hit produces the most damage."



'I saw a body lying by the tracks, covered in blood'

They spoke of a terrifying crash, of fears that overhead power cables would fall down upon them and they described their horror at being locked inside carriages while smoke rose around them. For those who survived yesterday's train crash, the memories will linger on. Steve Boggan reports

Among those involved in yesterday's train crash were journalists who had been reporting on the vote on Welsh devolution. Under different circumstances they would have been covering the accident; yesterday they spoke as eye-witnesses.

BBC researcher Nick Sutton, 23, described terrifying scenes of devastation, injury and death. He felt "three large bangs" and was thrown against a lavatory wall in one of the carriages before being gold to get out fast.

"As I walked off the train, I saw a body lying by the side of the tracks," he said. "No one was touching it. His shirt was ripped and there was blood all over him. There were people with blood on their faces as well."

"Everyone was shocked. There was a really strong smell. I don't know if it was the brakes or it was from hitting a goods train. It was nerve-wracking, especially seeing the body."

Mark Cole, a senior BBC re-

porter, was one of those on board. Speaking live to Radio 4's *The World at One*, he described the scene as "utter chaos". After passing Reading the train "seemed to pick up speed and within seconds had left the track", he said.

"Glass was flying through the windows. The carriage I was in veered off. It caught fire. There was smoke everywhere. Obviously it broke into panic."

Mr Cole said he could see the other train in the wreckage - a goods train with yellow carriages. "It has certainly been hit by the InterCity train but it isn't clear whether it has ploughed into that on the line or actually just collided with that when it derailed."

He said the train had been "packed". In his carriage, there were no spare seats and some passengers were standing up. His colleague, Jane Garvey, the presenter of the BBC Radio 5 Live *Breakfast Programme*, said there were so many people on board the Swansea train that she was squeezed into a first-class compartment.

Speaking live as the drama unfolded, she said: "We seem to have hit something on the tracks. I think at the very least, people are very badly hurt. We are absolutely petrified, but un hurt."

"There is billowing smoke, very acid, it stinks. I can see bits of twisted metal, which must be carriages, and people's possessions and chairs all over the track. It is total and utter chaos."

Some survivors spoke of one



The wreckage of the two trains at Southall yesterday (top left) and firefighters attempting to rescue passengers (top right) trapped in the remains of the 10.32 Swansea to Paddington service. Above, stunned survivors following the tragedy which killed six people

of the carriages bursting into flames. Others spoke of scrambling away from live power lines as they crashed down on to the tracks. One man said passengers had to wait inside carriages while smoke billowed around them because the train's doors remained locked.

"I think British Rail [sic] will

have to answer a few questions about that," he said. "It was very frightening having smoke rising up when you couldn't get out."

Survivors were taken to a nearby school and looked after by paramedics. Manjit Singh, one of the first people at the scene, said he heard cries for help and comforted the driver

of the InterCity train. "We heard the noise and went running down there," he said. "The driver was sitting shocked and stunned by the train. I grabbed him and asked him if he was all right. He said 'What has happened?'"

"He was all black from the smoke and his clothes were all

dirty. The engine was on fire. From the second carriage there were cries of 'Help, help, help'."

The disaster was best summed up by Dr Michael Rudolph, medical director of Ealing Hospital. He said: "The scene has been described to me as looking like a major aircraft disaster - carnage."

A long history of carnage on the network

Disasters on Britain's railways have occurred with grim regularity. The Southall crash takes the toll over the last 10 years to some 70 dead and more than 700 injured, Stephen Goodwin reports.

For sheer carnage, no rail crash matches the horror of the triple collision at Quintinshill, Dumfries and Galloway, on 22 May 1915, when 227 people died.

A 213-yard-long troop train was telescoped to less than a third of its length. Two signalmen were sentenced for manslaughter.

Yesterday's tragedy occurred on the same line and little more than two miles from the scene of a crash in 1973 which killed 10 people and injured 94.

An express train from Paddington to Oxford was derailed at Ealing - the crash was blamed on an open battery-box door, which hit a signalling control box.

The country's second-worst crash was at Harrow and Wealdstone, north London, in October 1952, when 112 people were killed and 340 hurt. Two express trains collided and a third ran into the wreckage on an adjoining line. Fifteen years later, 49 people were killed in a crash at Hither Green, south London.

More recently, 36 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a triple collision at

Clapham Junction, Britain's busiest rail intersection, in south London, on 12 December 1988. A rush-hour express from Bournemouth slammed into the back of stationary commuter service.

As passengers scrambled out, a third train ploughed into the wreckage. A signalling fault was blamed.

A rapid succession of tragedies followed. In March 1989, five people died and more than 90 were injured when two trains collided outside Purley station, in Surrey.

Two days later, two people died and 52 were injured in a two-train collision on a single-track line at Glasgow Bellgrove station. In August the same year, a driver was killed and 35 people injured at Stafford when an empty train ran into the back of the Manchester-to-Penzance express. Four months later, 15 people were injured when two InterCity expresses collided at Newcastle.

More than 240 were injured and two killed in January 1991 when a packed commuter train demolished the buffers at Cannon Street station and soon afterwards four people died and 22 were injured in a head-on collision at Newton station, near Glasgow.

In October 1994, five people were killed and 11 injured when two passenger trains collided in fog on a single line at Cowden, Kent. And in August last year one woman was killed and 69 people injured when two trains crashed head-on outside Watford Junction station.

Ye shall drink no wine,
for it is written in the scriptures
Jeremiah 35:6

Abbot Ale
for it is written

4/WALES DECIDES

'Yes' by a whisker. Now the deals begin

Wales voted 'Yes' to devolution by a whisker, but it was big enough to give Tony Blair the mandate for reform. Tony Heath describes the nail-biting climax, and Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says it could encourage opponents in the Commons and the Lords.

Tony Blair promised to "respond to the fears" about change, but made it clear that the Scotland and Wales devo-

lution Bills would begin on time in November, in spite of winning a "yes" vote by the narrowest of margins in the Welsh referendum.

The result was in the balance, until final vote from Carmarthenshire swung it in favour of "yes". The figures were 559,419 (50.3 per cent) to 552,698 (49.7 per cent), a majority of just 6,721 (0.6 per cent). Only 25 per cent of the total electorate in Wales voted "yes" and Cardiff, the Welsh capital, where the Assembly will be based, voted "no".

The narrowness of the vote provided something for all sides to take from the referendum. Mr Blair stayed in Downing



Cardiff arms: The 'yes' party in the capital erupts with delight in the early hours of Friday morning as the final result - for Carmarthenshire - came through and gave the seal of approval to the devolution proposals
Photograph: Tom Pilton

Street, and looked more relieved than elated in contrast to his triumphant celebration a week earlier in Edinburgh for the overwhelming Scottish

"yes" vote. A defeat would have been a body blow to his reforms, and it could have meant the sack for Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales.

William Hague, the Conservative leader, said it was a "very stark warning to the Government about the dangers of what they are doing to this

country. It shows the danger of dividing Wales. We have seen the country split down the middle. I hope they will stop and think what they are doing before they bring any legislation to the House of Commons".

The "no" campaigners said that they would have won if the referendum had been held on the same night as the Scottish poll. John Redwood, the former Tory Secretary of State for Wales, said it would act as a "check on Blair's ambitions".

Lord Stoddart, a Labour peer and opponent of devolution, said a majority of 0.6 per cent was "not good enough - even the National Union of Mineworkers requires 55 to 45 per cent before going on strike, damn it". Lord Archer, the Tory peer, said the Lords would stick to the Salisbury principle of not blocking the legislation, but it would take a different view of the Scottish and Welsh bills, because of the results.

Some of the six Labour

rebel MPs who supported the "no" campaign were unrepentant, although Llew Smith was facing a difficult meeting with his Blaenau Gwent constituency.

Mr Blair said that moves to create a Welsh assembly would carry on while the Government concentrated on "allaying the fears of people that were expressed during the campaign and making sure we show them this is a sensible measure of decentralisation".

He said: "It was right to give people a say. They voted in favour of it. We are delighted with the result. But it is important that we respond to the fears that were expressed by people." Downing Street officials emphasised that the majority would not stop the devolution Bills. "A majority of one would have been enough," one source said.

An intriguing aspect of the result was the coming together of sizeable "yes" votes in the old

industrial areas of South Wales and the Welsh-speaking rural counties of the north and west.

Whoever decided to book the Welsh College of Music and Drama as the nerve centre for the referendum count made an inspired choice. The night was replete with nail-biting tension - a political thriller à la Hitchcock.

Initially, anti-devolution votes piled up in rural areas along the English border. Then some Labour strongholds in the south tilted the balance. But Newport and Cardiff waded in with big "no" votes.

Then at 3.40 yesterday morning the chief counting officer, Professor Eric Sunderland, a former vice-chancellor of the University of Wales announced that Carmarthenshire had delivered sufficient "yes" votes to see the devolution proposals approved.

The margin prompted Cardiff to take on the look of Catalonia rejoicing - albeit in the rain. The strains of the Welsh National anthem wafted through the streets. Flags and glasses were raised. Sian Lloyd, ITV's glamour weather girl, wept tears of joy.

No one was happier than the Secretary of State. Linking arms with his ministerial colleagues Peter Hain and Wyn Griffiths, Liberal Democrat MP Richard Llewellyn and Plaid Cymru leader Dafydd Wigley MP, Mr Davies praised the co-operation that had turned a 4-1 quote "no" vote in the 1979 referendum into a slim victory.

"Doors, skirtings, mouldings and dado rails - you'll find them all at B&Q."

GREAT VALUE

6 Panel Grained Pre-Primed Internal Door Ready for gloss painting. 78ins x 30ins. **£22.75**

15 Panel SA Clear Glazed Hardwood Reinforced Internal Door Ready for staining. 78ins x 30ins. **£44.99**

SKIRTINGS & ARCHITRAVES

Available in packs or singles. Architraves also available in 3m lengths.

Chamfered Skirting 15mm x 69mm x 2.1m. Pack of 4. **£13.99** per pack

Chamfered Architrave 15mm x 45mm x 2.1m. Pack of 8. **£19.49** per pack

Rounded Skirting 15mm x 69mm x 2.1m. Pack of 4. **£13.99** per pack

Rounded Architrave 15mm x 45mm x 2.1m. Pack of 8. **£19.49** per pack

Torus Skirting 15mm x 119mm x 2.4m. Pack of 4. **£17.97** per pack

Torus Architrave 17mm x 56mm x 2.1m. Pack of 6. Was £14.99. **KEY SEASON PRICE £13.49** per pack

2 Panel Grained Internal Door 78ins x 30ins. Was £25.99. **£23.99**

MOULDINGS

Over 100 edgings, covers, dowels and quadrants are available from the Burbidge Mouldings Centre.

Burbidge Junior Mouldings Range (shown) 10mm x 65mm x 1.83m. Was £11.99. **£9.99**

Burbidge Ornamental Mouldings Selected design from range as shown. 21mm x 36mm x 1.83m. Was £15.99. **£13.99**

15 Panel SA Grained Pine Internal Door 78ins x 30ins. Was £31.39. **£29.99**

Colonial 6 Panel Reinforced Internal Door 78ins x 30ins. **£23.49**

DADO RAILS

Available in packs or singles.

Dado Rail 20mm x 70mm x 2.4m. Pack of 6. Was £34.99. **KEY SEASON PRICE £31.99** per pack

Dado Rail 20mm x 45mm x 2.4m. Pack of 8. **£28.99** per pack

PICTURE RAIL

Available in packs or singles.

Picture Rails 20mm x 44mm x 2.4m. Pack of 4. **£17.93** per pack

CLADDING

Dutch Profile Softwood Cladding 7.5mm x 95mm. 1.8m length. Pack of 5. **£5.49** per pack

CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS & GRANDCHILDREN

to a special event on Wednesday 24th September

Make a special card for Grandparents Day, 27th September

To support Age Concern's Grandparents Day, B&Q invites grandchildren to our stores on Wed 24th Sept when we will supply free drawing materials for them to make their own cards for their grandparents and we will also be serving free refreshments from 2pm to 5pm.

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q

Ask in store for details. Does not apply in B&Q Workhouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS

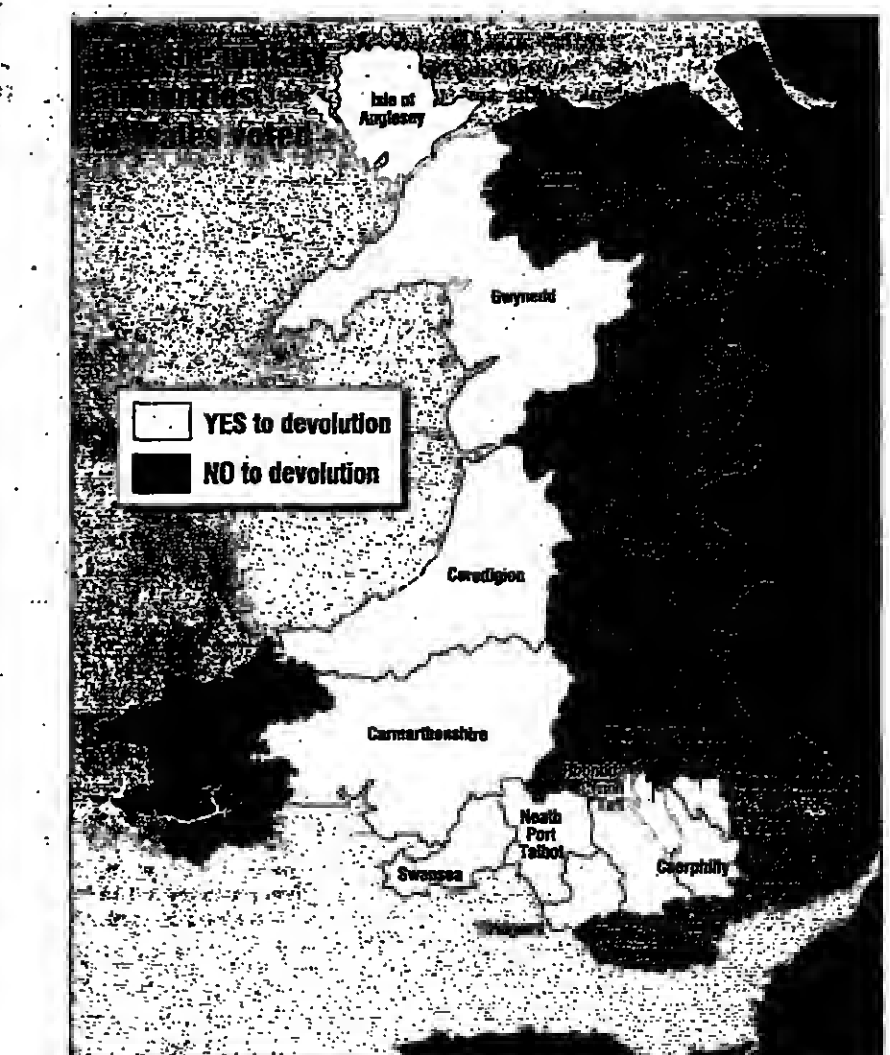
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 9am-6pm. Sunday: Most stores 10am-5pm. Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm. **BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166**

Internet: <http://www.bq.co.uk>

Prices stated are for items featured and may vary for other packs, sizes and designs available - please check in-store. Some items are available on special offer only and may not be available in all stores. Please check in-store for details. Certain items are available on special offer only and may not be available in all stores. Please check in-store for details. Certain items are available on special offer only and may not be available in all stores. Please check in-store for details.

B&Q

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!



Independence enthusiasts caught on horns of dilemma

The Reverend RS Thomas is dismissive of the referendum result. A poet who commands international respect, he admits voting in favour of an elected Welsh assembly. Once nominated for a Nobel Prize for literature he claimed that only crumbs were on offer. "I have no appetite for crumbs from the English table" he said.

The choice on the ballot paper - whether to support the Government's devolution proposals or oppose them - put Welsh people on the horns of a dilemma. The English did not want Wales to be independent. "It was like asking you if you've stopped beating your wife," he said.

Robert Croft, the Glamorgan and England cricketer, was in the pavilion at Taunton waiting for the weather to improve so that the county could take up the challenge of defeating Somerset to clinch the county championship.

"I've always tried to steer clear of politics. But one thing I should like to see in a new Wales is a cricket academy at Sophia Gardens, our county ground in Cardiff. Glamorgan won the county championship in 1969. We're keeping our fingers crossed for a repeat this season. An academy could help to make it a treble in the years to come."

Emlyn Hooson, now Lord Hooson, followed in the footsteps of Clement Davies, Liberal MP for Mootgomery from 1929 to 1962. He went to the Lords after losing his seat in 1979. Conceding that under the Government's plans an elected assembly would only command limited powers.

He said: "It will concentrate on those Welsh affairs which are inadequately dealt with because of lack of time at Westminster. With the benefit of proportional representation [20 of the 60 assembly members will be elected by PR] it will be more truly representative of Wales."

Sian Lloyd, the television weather presenter who was born in Penarth, South Wales, said she wanted the assembly to speak and act for the whole of Wales. "It's really important that we all pull together and alleviate the fears of the Noes. They talked about the north-south split but in the end it was a west-east split because it's the eastern side of Wales, Gwent and Newport, who had all the inward investment."

"They benefited from the Welsh Development Agency so they didn't want change. But the assembly has to provide for all regions of Wales."

ritons carry
with holidays
ake of Cairo
ombing

The biggest personal gift in the history of the world

On Thursday night, Ted Turner was the star turn at a New York dinner for American supporters of the United Nations. Mr Turner has always been vocal in his enthusiasm for the UN. But his pledge of a personal gift of one billion dollars stunned one and all.

David Osborne shares in the shock.

The idea came to Ted Turner some time in the middle of the week. Impulsive though he may be, he thought first to check it out with his wife, Jane Fonda. In his words: "It brought tears to her eyes".

Not just in Ms Fonda's. If they were not actually crying at United Nations headquarters yesterday, they might just as well have been. Mr Turner, the broadcast huckster and founder of CNN, had announced on Thursday night that he was giving the organisation \$1bn (£580m) of his own money.

This is no bagatelle, not even to Mr Turner, who last year sold his television business to Time Warner, where he is now vice-president. It represents almost a third of his total worth. As far as anyone can surmise, it is the biggest philanthropic gift made by any single person in history.

It is tempting to imagine tears also in Washington DC. Not of joy but rather of embarrassment. If the UN has been on its knees in recent times, scraping money together like a bum on the street, it has been because of the failure of the US government to pay up back dues of about \$1.3bn.

Mr Turner, who was attending a dinner of the United

Nations Association of the United States, is not letting the US off the hook. The money will be paid into a foundation in \$100m instalments over 10 years to finance programmes for refugees, children, the environment and clearing landmines. The missing US cash is

for the UN bureaucracy; it will still be owing.

Pity President Bill Clinton, therefore, who is due to address the new session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday. The sub-text will be vivid. If one man (even if it does happen to be Mr Turner) can

give a billion, what on earth is your problem, leader of the last, greatest and only super-power?

The happiest man at the UN is surely Kofi Annan, the new UN Secretary-General, who got early word from Mr Turner on Thursday afternoon of what was to come. The donation is a giant boost to Mr Annan as he seeks to win the missing money out of the US while at the same time forging ambitious reforms to make the UN more efficient and more accountable.

Mr Annan is suitably grateful. "It is a great gesture and it is a noble gesture," he said. "I hope others who are also fortunate and have the capacity to give will follow Ted Turner's example". Sir John Weston, the British ambassador, also paid tribute to Mr Turner.

"This is a spectacular and imaginative gesture that will show how easy it is to do something to get the UN back on its feet again when there are people out there who believe in it enough". Easy for those with a spare billion, anyway.

Mr Turner, indeed, has not only promised Mr Annan to encourage others to contribute to the new foundation, but instantly challenged others with large fortunes to follow his lead. "I am putting every rich person in the world on notice," he told the CNN interviewer Larry King.

"There's a lot of people who are awash in money they don't know what to do with. It doesn't do any good if you don't know what to do with it. I have learned the more good that I did, the more money comes in. You have to learn to give. You're not born a giver. You're born selfish".

The extraordinarily dramatic impact of Mr Turner's announcement was heightened by the casual, almost off-hand, nature of its delivery. He

— David Osborne

BILLIONAIRES' GAME

Ted Turner threw down the gauntlet to his fellow billionaires to follow his lead. One, he mentioned by name: Bill Gates (pictured) of Microsoft.

The timing is daudard. This week, Mr Gates, estimated to be worth around \$40bn, moved into a new home on the shores of Lake Washington near Seattle. How much did this temple of luxury cost him? About \$50 million.

What may follow now is a game of billionaires' chicken. It is a race to see who can give away the most money in the shortest time and claim a place in history as the Andrew Carnegie of the 1990s.

Mr Gates has already vowed that he will pick a time to give up his stewardship of the software colossus he founded and dedicate the rest of his life to giving away his extraordinary wealth. A similar promise has been made by America's second richest man, Warren Buffett, who has accumulated a fortune of at least \$8bn through his investment company, Berkshire Hathaway. He has said he intends giving away 98 per cent of it to a charitable foundation.

Mr Turner began his nagging over a year ago. It was then that he told the New York Times that he broke the spell cast on him and his peers by the Forbes list of the richest on the planet. "That list is destroying our country!", he declared. "These super-new rich won't loosen up



their wads because they're afraid they'll reduce their net worth and go down the list."

Even before yesterday, the game had started. In June, the main contestants were Mr Gates himself and another computer tycoon, Larry Ellison of Oracle software. Ellison announced plans to spend \$100 million on donating computers to schools. Barely six hours before the Ellison gift was unveiled, Microsoft came out of the trap with its own contribution to the greater good - a \$200 million pledge to equip libraries with personal computers and software. There was fury at Oracle at what they believed was a deliberate ploy by Mr Gates to eclipse Mr Ellison's donation.

Just like Mr Carnegie, neither Gates nor Ellison were acting out of selflessness - both their companies stood to benefit. Through his gift to the UN, however, Mr Turner can expect only a warm feeling, and plenty of good publicity.

— David Osborne



Giving couple: Ted Turner and his wife, Jane Fonda, with whom he checked before deciding to give the impoverished UN \$1bn in \$100m instalments, reckoned to be the biggest philanthropic hand-out in history. Photograph: All Action

decided on the amount, he said, because "a billion is a good round number".

He explained further that since December last year his net worth had grown from \$2.2bn to \$3.2bn. Thus the donation, which will be paid in Time Warner stock, represents the

additional fortune accumulated over nine months. "I've still got \$2bn left. If I make some more money I could give more away. This is just extra, you know... this was sort of spur of the moment."

Mr Turner has long nurtured close ties with the UN. Two

years ago, his CNN network was awarded a UN prize for its commitment in coverage of the UN. Nearly a year ago he used an appearance at a UN conference to attack Rupert Murdoch, his broadcasting nemesis, and liken him to Hitler.

He also - not without en-

couragement from his wife - has long worked as a champion of various liberal and environmental causes, extending to the herds of bison now roaming his Montana ranches. His other love, meanwhile, is baseball and the Atlanta Braves team, which he owns.

"You'd think I'd be the last person who wants a personal pension...so why have I just bought one?"



"No-one ever got rich by passing up golden opportunities and that's exactly what a personal pension offers you. Why? Because one of the beauties of saving for your retirement is that the Government actually gives you money - and lots of it - to encourage you. But this rare generosity is only available if you invest in a pension."



With a personal pension your money is allowed to work harder for you as you get back every penny of the income tax you pay on the money you invest. Just think what a difference that will make to the way your savings grow.



If you're employed and not in a company pension scheme, or if you're self-employed, you can probably start a personal pension straight away. You can save from as little as £50 a month. Bear in mind though, that it's likely you'll have to save more than this in the long run to get the retirement you want.

Starting a personal pension is such a vital decision, that you should be choosy who you buy from. So make sure you do your homework.

Demand low charges!



You don't want to see the taxman's generosity swallowed up in high charges and a salesman's commission. So choose a company that keeps charges as low as business sense allows and refuses to employ salesmen or pay commission. That way, more of your money is working for you.

Get for clarity!



You'll want to know exactly what you're getting, so insist on a pension that does not try to baffle you with jargon or hide important details in the small print. Choose a company which is upfront about everything it does.

Be in control!



Make sure you are the one to decide how much you pay and when. Select a company which puts you in control and gives you the flexibility to change your payments - or stop them altogether if you need to - without having to pay a penalty.

If all this sounds like what you're looking for, why not call us and see how we compare? Tell us how much you want to tick away each month and we'll send you a personalised information pack containing all the details you'll need to know.

Alternatively, if you would like some help in deciding what's right for you, ask to speak to one of our Company Representatives. They are fully trained and authorised to advise you on all our products.

Virgin direct
personal financial service

0345 900 900

Lines are open from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct marketing group. The price of unit trusts and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefit depends on how much tax you pay. Virgin Direct only markets its own products. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

Victory for settlers in Jerusalem tussle

The Jewish settlers who, backed by an American millionaire, are attempting to establish themselves in a Palestinian part of Jerusalem, have reached agreement with the Israeli government on their future. But, writes Patrick Cockburn, what is being presented as a compromise deal is really a total victory.

The American millionaire Irving Moskowitz has won a near-total victory in his attempt to establish a new Jewish neighbourhood in the previously Palestinian district of Ras al-Amoud in east Jerusalem. Under a "compromise", the present 11 Jewish settlers will be replaced by 10 seminary students who will guard and renovate the largest villa they have occupied.

To effect, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister,

has changed the status quo in east Jerusalem - the balance between Muslims and Jews - something which earlier in the week he had promised not to do. Going by past experience, Palestinian anger will lead to violence, probably in the form of suicide bombs.

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, yesterday called the "compromise" a trick, but appears interested primarily in milking the issue for as much diplomatic advantage as he can, by preventing violent demonstrations on the streets. He also wants to show Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, that the threat to the peace process comes from Mr Netanyahu and not himself.

The Israeli Prime Minister said the agreement was the best possible for "the unity of Jerusalem, the unity of the nation, and the continuation of the peace process."

Apart from stone-throwing at Israeli troops by boys in Hebron yesterday there was little violence after Palestinian Muslims held Friday prayers.

Israeli security says it has charged two members of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, with planning to kidnap Ehud Olmert, the right-wing Mayor of Jerusalem, and explode a bomb in the city's largest mall.

The deal whereby the Israeli government has effectively given its sanction to the settlement at Ras al-Amoud was agreed by Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister.

But it emerged in the Israeli press that Dr Moskowitz had given \$1m (£600,000), a lot of money in Israeli politics, to fund a lobbying group opposed to Israel returning the Golan Heights to Syria, which became the nucleus of Mr Kahalani's party, the Third Way.

The settlers claim that by establishing the beginnings of a new Jewish settlement at Ras al-Amoud they have completed a ring around Jerusalem which breaks up the continuity of the Palestinian districts in the city. They say their intention is to make it impossible for Palestinians to have their own capital based in east Jerusalem.



Behind the mask A boy protecting himself in Kuala Lumpur as smog levels rise

Photograph: Reuters

Emergency over Borneo fires

Malaysia declared a state of emergency in its Borneo island state of Sarawak yesterday as smoky pollution from forest fires that has enveloped South-east Asia reached dangerous levels.

Activity in normally bustling Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, slowed as schools, businesses, government offices and airports shut. Malaysia Airlines said all flights to Kuching had been cancelled or diverted.

Hospitals and food stores were allowed to stay open.

The Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said: "With the API (air quality) level in Sarawak state having reached above 500, and expected to continue, I declare a state of emergency for the state."

A reading over 500 is regarded as extremely dangerous and a senior environment official said: "If you are exposed to air at 200 to 300 on the API for a day, it could be roughly like smoking [20] cigarettes."

The pollution, which has shrouded Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei for weeks, is caused largely by thousands of forest fires in Indonesia, particularly on Sumatra and the Indonesian part of Borneo.

In Kuching's smog-shrouded streets, hawkers sold masks marked up as much as three times from original prices.

France and Germany fail to bridge gap on Emu

Germany and France reiterated their commitment yesterday to launching European monetary union on schedule, but remained divided over control of the new currency. Meeting in the east German city of Weimar, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin reached for three different solutions. While stressing the independence of the future European Central Bank, Mr Jospin called for "informal structures" to allow governments a say in economic matters. Germany remains adamant that there could be no political interference in the bank's work. President Chirac fudged.

Disagreement also surfaced over French proposals for a community-wide policy to tackle unemployment, but Mr Chirac and Mr Kohl came out with identical wordings when asked about the forthcoming British presidency of the EU, which will oversee the selection of candidates to monetary union. The two men had "no doubt that Tony Blair will be the best possible chairman".

Poland's era of uncertainty

Four years of strong Polish governments led by ex-communists drew towards a close yesterday as voters prepared, for better or worse, to leap into uncertainty. Poles suggest tomorrow's parliamentary vote could produce another coalition steered by former communists, a centre-right alliance around the Solidarity bloc, or stalemate. The election results may be just the start of weeks of haggling before a cabinet forms. Even then, the government may be shakier than the current coalition of former communists and Poles, which won a nearly two-thirds majority in 1993. President Aleksander Kwasniewski says a deadlock would be the worst outcome as Poland enters talks on joining Nato and the European Union.

Plea for N. Korean children

The food aid arm of the United Nations warned yesterday of a risk of "massive mortality" in North Korea following a sample testing that showed about 17 per cent of young children surveyed in the country are seriously undernourished. "Without adequate assistance we can expect massive mortality in the coming winter. Nutritionally, North Koreans are already pressed to the limit," Catherine Bertini, World Food Programme head, said.

Witch-sniffers go to school

Two South African schools arranged witch-sniffing ceremonies yesterday to root out teacher sorcerers widely believed to be bewitching their colleagues. Regional education officials said they disapproved, but that there was nothing they could do to stop the traditional rites, which had the backing of pupils and families in White River, in rural eastern Mpumalanga province. Lynchings of the accused have sometimes followed sniffings in the highly superstitious region.

Currys

NEW FROM VAX SAHARA

HARD FLOOR CLEANER

Hydro dry technology

WASHES & DRIES HARD FLOORS INSTANTLY

VAX SAHARA Hard Floor Cleaner

- More hygienic than traditional cleaning methods.
- Suitable for all types of hard floor.
- Dual function - converts simply to a dry vacuum cleaner.

Model SAHARA.
Price Excluding Trade-in £249.99.

TRADE-IN PRICE

£199.99

£50 TRADE-IN

*Excluding unsealed wooden floors

LATEST VAX WET-AND-DRY CLEANERS

VAX 3-IN-1 Cylinder Cleaner

- 1400 watt variable power.
- Ultra-rapid washing head.
- Power assisted washing.
- Double walled dustbag.
- Stainless steel telescopic tubes.
- On-board storage for tools.

CURRY'S PRICE

£199.99

VAX 3-IN-1 Cleaner

- 1300 watt motor.
- Ultra-rapid washing head.
- Double walled dustbag.
- Stainless steel tubes.
- Includes tools.

Model 5130.

CURRY'S PRICE

£149.99

VAX Upright Wet-and-Dry Cleaner

- 1400 watt motor.
- Variable power.
- 99.9% filtration.
- Unique spill pick-up tool.
- Long stair cleaning hose.

Model HF1400.

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

CURRY'S PRICE

£249.99

VAX BAGLESS DRY CLEANING SYSTEM

VAX Bagless Dry Cylinder Cleaner

- 1400 watt motor.
- Lifelong filter.
- Extra long cable.
- Long stair cleaning hose.
- Telescopic tubes.
- On-board tool storage.

Model WIZARD.

Was £249.99.
Was £199.99.

CURRY'S PRICE

£179.99

SAVE £70

SAVE up to 66% on calls worldwide!

Put your international calls through World Access and just look at the amazing savings you'll make every minute of the day and night!

World Access	B.T.	Save
USA	10p	29p 66%
PAKISTAN	74p	133p 44%
JAPAN	26p	76p 66%
MAURITIUS	74p	131p 42%
AUSTRIA	30p	54p 45%
HONG KONG	33p	68p 52%

All prices include VAT. Price comparisons are based on BT basic rate weekdays 9am to 9pm. All prices quoted in pence per minute.

- LOW COST CALLS 24 hours a day
- To over 240 countries worldwide
- No need to change your telephone, your phone number or phone company
- No new installation
- No additional charges

Find out how to start saving right now!

0800 458 0458

WORLD ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION LTD

Only Currys bring you all this...

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME

MasterCard Coverplan

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

WILL NEVER BE BEATEN

24 HOUR SERVICE

Currys has a 24 hour service team available to help you with any problems you may have.

IN HOME SERVICE

For most large items Currys will deliver, install and remove the old one for you.

FINANCE OFFERS

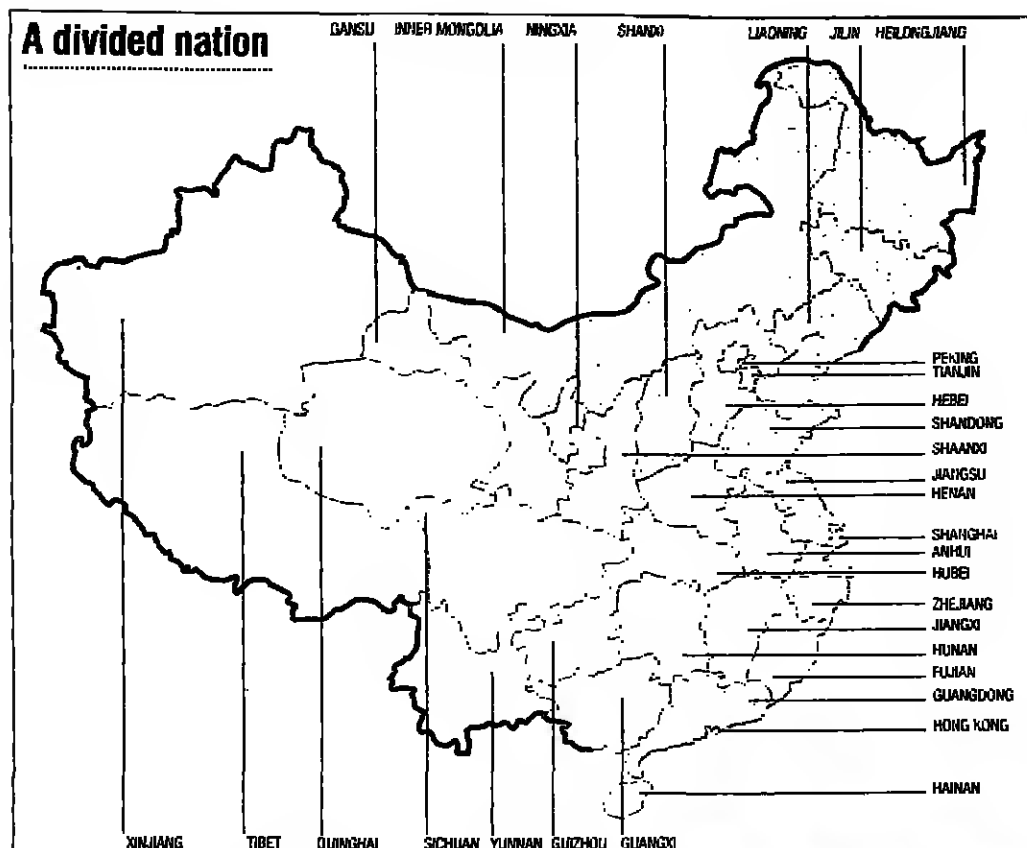
Currys has a range of finance offers to suit your needs.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

Currys has over 100 stores across the UK.

شركة من العراق

A divided nation



PROVINCE	GDP (per capita yuan)	Foreign investment per capita (US\$)	Average rural income (yuan)
1. 10,000 yuan and over:			
Shanghai	20,500	278	4,800
Peking	12,400	123	3,500
Tianjin	12,200	212	3,000
2. 8,000-10,000 yuan			
Zhejiang	9,600	35	3,800
Guangdong	9,100	168	3,500
Jiangsu	8,700	74	3,000
3. 6,000-8,000 yuan			
Liaoning	7,900	42	2,300
Fujian	7,200	126	2,500
Heilongjiang	6,400	15	2,200
Shandong	6,400	30	2,000
Xinjiang	6,000	2	2,200
4. 4,000-6,000 yuan			
Hainan	5,700	108	1,700
Hebei	5,100	13	2,000
Hubei	5,000	12	1,600
Jilin	4,800	1	2,500
Shaanxi	4,200	5	1,300
Inner Mongolia	4,200	3	1,600
Hunan	4,100	11	1,900
5. 3,000-4,000 yuan			
Qinghai	4,000	0.2	1,000
Guangxi	4,000	14	1,900
Anhui	3,900	8	1,600
Jiangxi	3,800	7	1,900
Henan	3,700	6	1,400
Sichuan	3,700	4	1,400
Ningxia	3,700	1	1,500
Yunnan	3,500	2	1,400
Shaanxi	3,400	9	1,100
6. 2,000-3,000 yuan			
Tibet	2,700	n/a	800
Gansu	2,600	4	800
Guizhou	2,100	1	1,000

NOTE: All data for 1996. Yuan figures given to the nearest 100 yuan; US\$ figures to the nearest whole number (Exchange rate: 13.4 yuan = one pound sterling). Figures based on 1996 data from the State Statistical Bureau and the State Information Centre. Tibet statistics from the Tibet government office.

The Party's 'Magnificent Seven' step out in style

China's President Jiang Zemin has secured his political power base. Economic reform is now secure, but his victory probably means a setback for political reform. Teresa Poole looks at winners and losers.

The "Magnificent Seven" of Chinese politics, the Standing Committee of the party's Politburo, was revealed to the world yesterday.

The first surprise was the absence of green army uniforms. The seat vacated by the dumping of ageing general Liu Huaqing was turned over to a civilian.

Leading the pack was a very contented-looking President

Jiang Zemin, for whom the 15th Communist Party Congress has been a personal triumph. Behind him a smiling Li Peng, who has kept his second-ranking position and looks set to head the parliament when he steps down as prime minister.

China's new Number 3 followed, the perennially glum Zhu Rongji, who is almost certainly to be the next prime minister. Mr Zhu is the man who tamed China's rampant inflation and will now be in charge of implementing Mr Jiang's blueprint for reform of state-owned enterprises.

Li Ruihuan and Hu Jintao, both party stalwarts, kept their seats. So all eyes were on who would fill the vacant slots left by Mr Liu and Qiao Shi, the spectacularly ousted adversaries of Mr Jiang. Step forward the newcomers: Wei Jianxing,

anti-corruption supremo, and Li Lang, a reform-minded vice-prime minister.

Mr Jiang has emerged from the conference in a far more powerful position than many predicted when the patriarch, Deng Xiaoping, died in February. Although he had to make some compromises, he has elevated many of his preferred candidates to more influential posts.

Next year's retirement of Mr Qiao as head of the National People's Congress to make way for Mr Li is widely seen as a step backwards for gradual political reform in China. Mr Qiao had argued forcefully for a stronger role for China's largely rubber-stamp parliament, and the importance of establishing the "rule of law". Mr Li, a political hardliner, is not cast in quite the same mould.

Wealth and power split new superpower into three

In China, all people are equal; but some are more equal than others. The divide between rich and poor may be the biggest threat to stability in the next global superpower. Teresa Poole in Peking looks at the fault-lines of a nation that seems to be becoming three countries as economic reform takes hold.

It takes almost two days by train to travel from the glass-fronted skyscrapers of Shanghai to the impoverished north-west province of Ningxia, a journey from China's style capital to a part of the country which economic reform and opening up seems to have left behind.

The feeling of travelling back in time as one crosses China is stark. In Shanghai, the benefits and challenges are self-evident after a decade of breakneck growth: a well-dressed and well-heeled middle class, gleaming shopping malls, gridlocked roads, and a massive building site on every corner.

By the time one arrives in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, right in the middle of China, the architecture of the new buildings is utilitarian, private cars are fewer, and a quarter of the workforce is still tied to the ailing state textile industry.

Journey on to Yinchuan, capital of north-west Ningxia province, home of China's Hui Muslim minority, and one is back in yesterday's China. The city's department store offers the sort of old-fashioned clothes worn in Shanghai in the early Eighties: there is little new construction, and no sign of foreign investment. In the south of the province, a sizeable number of people still live in caves dug out of the hillsides, with no electricity or running water.

Such is a snapshot picture of China in the week that the ruling Communist Party ends its 15th Party Congress. China's own economists look at their nation in three slices: the East (comprising Peking, Shanghai, and the coastal provinces), the Centre (which cuts a swathe through the middle and up to the north-east), and the West (the nine most far-flung provinces).

Historically, life was always easier for those living near the coast, but the huge imbalance in the way foreign investment has been received since economic reform started in 1979 has created a regional wealth gap unlike anything seen in China before. The east contains one-third of the country's population but benefits from four-fifths of the foreign investment that has been ploughed into China since 1979.

In terms of standards of living, trade and industry, and

prospects for the future, the China shown on our map begins to look more like three different countries. "Yes, according to people's income and the degree of economic advancement you can say that," said Liang Youcai, deputy director of the forecasting department of the State Information Centre. "People in the East can live comparatively well, while many in the West still live under the poverty level."

Mr Liang is among many who have pointed out the obvious dangers of such regional wealth gaps. Two years ago he told the central government that if the situation persisted "social disturbances might be incurred, and economic development be impeded."

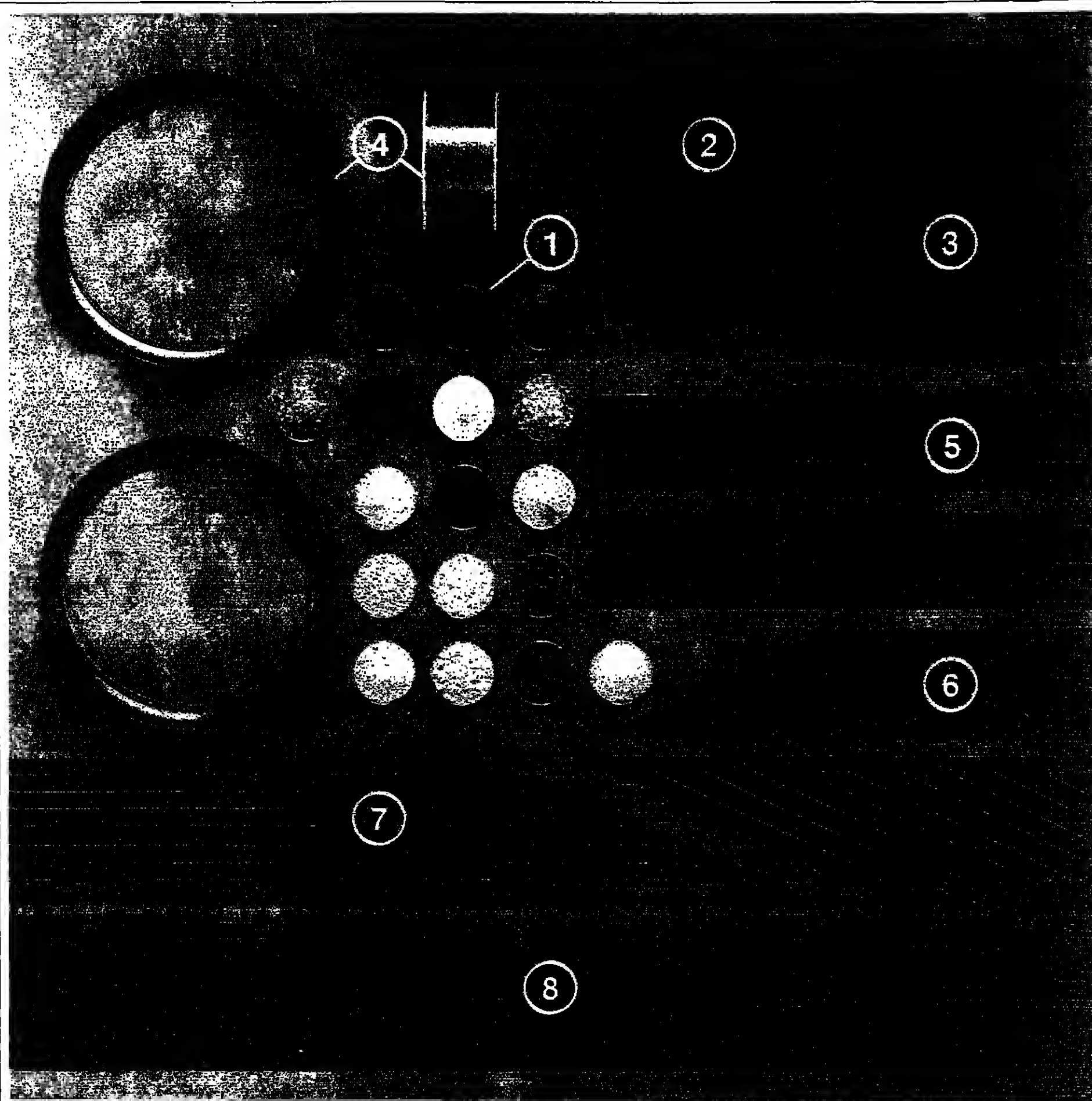
By any economic measure one cares to use, the disparities between the East, Centre and West are sharp. Bad transportation, decrepit industry, and difficult climates put the inland and western provinces at such an initial disadvantage, that they cannot compete.

So it is no surprise that standards of living are lowest in the impoverished West. There, the annual expenditure per person in rural areas in 1996 was just 1,149 yuan (£86).

Peasants have already voted with their feet, the disparities being the most severe for rural folk. China's army of around 90 million floating workers behave like a barometer of regional economic prospects, fleeing the countryside and small townships, where underemployment is chronic. The more timid drift towards the big cities in their own or nearby provinces, but the adventurous think nothing of journeying more than 1,000 miles towards the coastal provinces and cities, where they labour on building sites and in export-led foreign-invested factories.

This multi-tiered massive shift of population adds to the government's separate concern of how to maintain social stability in cities as it launches a massive reform and privatisation of state-owned enterprises. Reports of demonstrations by unemployed or unpaid state enterprise workers are commonplace these days. "Those workers are mainly concentrated in the West and Centre. In the East, the economy is more advanced, the government has income and even if there are unemployed state enterprise workers, the government can guarantee their minimum living conditions," said Mr Liang.

How long then for the rest of China to close the gap with the East? A very, very long time, despite central government policies to ease the imbalance. "Judging from the whole situation, it is not possible for the Centre and West to catch up with the East even after another 20 years," said Mr Liang.



MOST GERMAN RECIPES PRODUCE TOUGH, INEDIBLE RESULTS. THIS ONE IS NO EXCEPTION.

Ask a German for his favourite recipe and you won't be surprised if it's inedible. Nevertheless, we bring you this highlight from the Continental tyre engineers' recipe book. At least you know this dish is meant to be rubbery.

1. First make your basic rubber compound using natural and synthetic rubber, sulphur, resin, aromatic oil, carbon black, stearic acid, cobalt stearate, wax and a unique blend of vulcanisation and anti-oxidant chemicals. These are probably not the sort of ingredients you have at home - unless you're a Continental tyre engineer. Mix, then test (but don't taste) for consistency.

2. Make an airtight inner liner by rolling butyl rubber into a wide, thin layer and trim. This will ensure your tyre rises nicely and doesn't go flat.

3. In a calendaring machine, make body plies to form the tyre's carcass. The carcass gives the tyre its strength and also cushions you, even on roads lumpier and bumpier than German custard.

4. With brass-coated steel cords, form a circle to make the tyre 'beads'. These will make sure your tyre sits securely on the wheel-rim.

5. Take two strips of rubber and form the outer sidewalls. These protect tyres from

bangs and scrapes, and the chemicals added earlier help reduce the harmful effects of ozone and the sun. (Our engineers hate to see their grids and jigs looking anything less than perfect.)

6. Now cover brass-coated steel with rubber to make 'belt plies'. Place under the tread, to provide longer life and a better shape. Not what you normally associate with German cooking.

7. Make the cap plies by embedding nylon in rubber, to form a bandage over the belt plies and under the tread. This improves high speed handling and stability.

8. To make the tread, add chemicals and stir into the basic rubber compound. Heat and press through an extruder.

You'll now need your tyre building machines. Combine the bead, inner liner, carcass, sidewalls, belt plies and tread. Spray the outside of the tyre with lubricant and the inside with silicon.

Place in a vulcanising mould and cook for 10 minutes at 150°C and 12 bar of pressure. Remove and leave to cool. You've now made a very tasty Continental tyre.

Of course, if you can't be bothered with all the preparation, you can always get a take-away from your local tyre dealer.

Continental

هكذا من الأصل



Dozens were injured when a bomb shook the Bosnian Croat-held sector of Mostar on Thursday night. It was another sign of tension in the divided town between Croats and Bosnian Moslems, which have been exacerbated by the elections.

was paralysed from the waist down and had to be evacuated by Nato helicopter for emergency treatment in Croatia, said Dr Zoran Antunovic, the surgeon on duty at the time. "He was hurled under a wall that collapsed due to the explosion," Dr Antunovic said. Three children - including a one-month-old baby - were among those who suffered lesser injuries from flying debris and glass.

against the Serbs in 1994 and formed a federation covering half of Bosnia but relations in Mostar remain tense.

Despite millions of dollars in reconstruction aid and three years of diplomatic efforts aimed at reunifying the town, Mostar is still strictly partitioned along ethnic lines.

The police station was run by the joint Muslim-Croat police force established in July after months of arduous negotiation. "I think that this was an attack against the joint police in Mostar," said Sefkija Džih, the Muslims' deputy minister for internal affairs in the region.

A spokesman for the international community's High Representative to Bosnia condemned the blast: "This was a senseless attack with a clear aim to destabilise the situation in the city at what is an extremely sensitive time."

UN spokesman Ivanko said: "It is extremely disturbing that almost two years after the signing of the Dayton peace agreement certain individuals continue to use barbaric tactics to get their point across."

The bomb went off outside a police station in the western part of Mostar, sending a ball of flame into the air. A crater about a yard deep marked the site. A mushroom cloud of dust settled on buildings and vehicles over a wide area.

UN spokesman Alex Ivanko said the authorities assumed the blast was a car bomb. "There hasn't been a blast like this really since Dayton," said Liam McDowall, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo.

A Mostar hospital said 30 people were treated for injuries and three of them were in serious condition. A man

At the beginning of this year, Slobodan Milosevic's hold on power in Serbia appeared to be collapsing as protesters filled the streets of Belgrade. But the opposition, then superficially united, has split ahead of tomorrow's elections. Steve Crawshaw reports on the arch-manipulator of the Balkans and his enemies.

Unsurprisingly, Mr Milosevic has taken the real power with him: the Yugoslav presidency used to be powerless when Mr Milosevic was president of Serbia; now, the Serbian presidency looks set to be meaningless, as power has moved to the office of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia.

The uninspiring Zoran Ljilic, candidate of the Socialists (former Communists), until recently president of rump Yugoslavia, hopes to do a job-swap with his political patron, becoming Serbian president. The other main presidential candidate, apart from Mr Draskovic, is the far-right Vojislav Seselj. In short: unappealing prospects all around.

"One for all," says the poster that gazes out everywhere in the centre of Belgrade. The accompanying portrait is of a grave-looking man in a beard with a distinct resemblance to Nicholas II, Russia's last tsar.

Even by the standards of election propaganda, the slogan for Vuk Draskovic — once Serbia's wild-maned Rasputin, now the would-be dignified president — is misleading. Not all for one, nor one for all. Mr Draskovic has quarrelled bitterly with the two other members of the opposition troika which spearheaded huge popular demonstrations in Belgrade and across Serbia at the beginning of this year. United, they were powerful; divided, they are not.

Zoran Djindjic and Vesna Pesic, with whom Mr Draskovic shared a platform during the opposition rallies in December and January, are boycotting Serbian parliamentary and pres-



idential elections tomorrow. Mr Draskovic - after so apparently cosy meeting with Serbia's brilliant manipulator, Slobodan Milosevic - has broken ranks, and is selling himself as Serbia's latest saviour. The opposition, which at the beginning of the year was more powerful than ever before, has stumbled back into the political quagmire, while Mr Milosevic watches from the sidelines. For Mr Milosevic - who has been written off at regular intervals since he came to power in 1987 - the scenario is reassuringly familiar.

Mr Milosevic is not himself a candidate in tomorrow's polls. He is now Yugoslav president, after serving the maximum two terms as president of Serbia.

The meeting between Mr Milosevic and Mr Draskovic, his former sworn enemy, has not been fully explained. Mr Draskovic - who has dramatically repackaged himself, with a short back and sides and a neatly trimmed beard - emerged triumphant, after apparently being charmed by Mr Milosevic. The pro-government Serbian media started giving Mr Draskovic favourable coverage, for the first time. In a country where conspiracy theories are two a penny, everybody has a different theory, even the least conspiracy-minded analysts insist that some secret deal must have been struck. One suggestion is that he might become Serbian prime minister, following the parliamentary elections, also held today.

When hundreds of thousands filled the streets, Mr. Milosevic made some retreat. The opposition was able to take power in major cities, including Belgrade. But none is better able than Mr. Milosevic to win a chess game when checkmate seems inevitable. The only crucial requirement for the opposition was that it should stay united until Mr. Milosevic was gone. The opposition promptly started tearing itself apart — and Mr. Milosevic could rejoice.

Mr Djindjic became mayor of Belgrade – and thus gained a higher profile than Mr Draskovic, to the latter's annoyance. Mr Draskovic, meanwhile, who had briefly renounced nationalism, started to bang the nationalist drum once more, mixed in with a strong dose of monarchism.

Cracks in the regime in the neighbouring republic of Montenegro – the other remaining member of the Yugoslav federation – could mean greater difficulties for President Milosevic. His main ally there is under threat, as never before. Even so, few in Serbia are ready to predict an early end for the man who has re-invented himself so many times before. The optimism of just eight months ago now seems to come from another era.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT WRITTEN CREDIT QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM: DEPT 84/POM, MARLANDS AVENUE, MENEL HEMPSTEAD HP2 7TG

[illegible]

BRITISH GAS ANNOUNCES BIG REDUCTIONS IN GAS PRICES FROM JANUARY 1998.

In January 1998, we will be offering significantly reduced prices across the country. Millions of customers will see savings of around 9% on an average bill. For some customers savings could be up to 26%. There's no new contract to sign: we'll make the changes automatically. All you have to do is pay promptly and look out for details of the savings in your bill.

British Gas
Home Energy

*The 26% saving is based on a low consumption customer, on our standard credit tariff, who uses about 100 therms per year and who switches to prompt bill payment.

البيان



Secret service

Call for
applic:

Call for
applic:

Call for
applic:

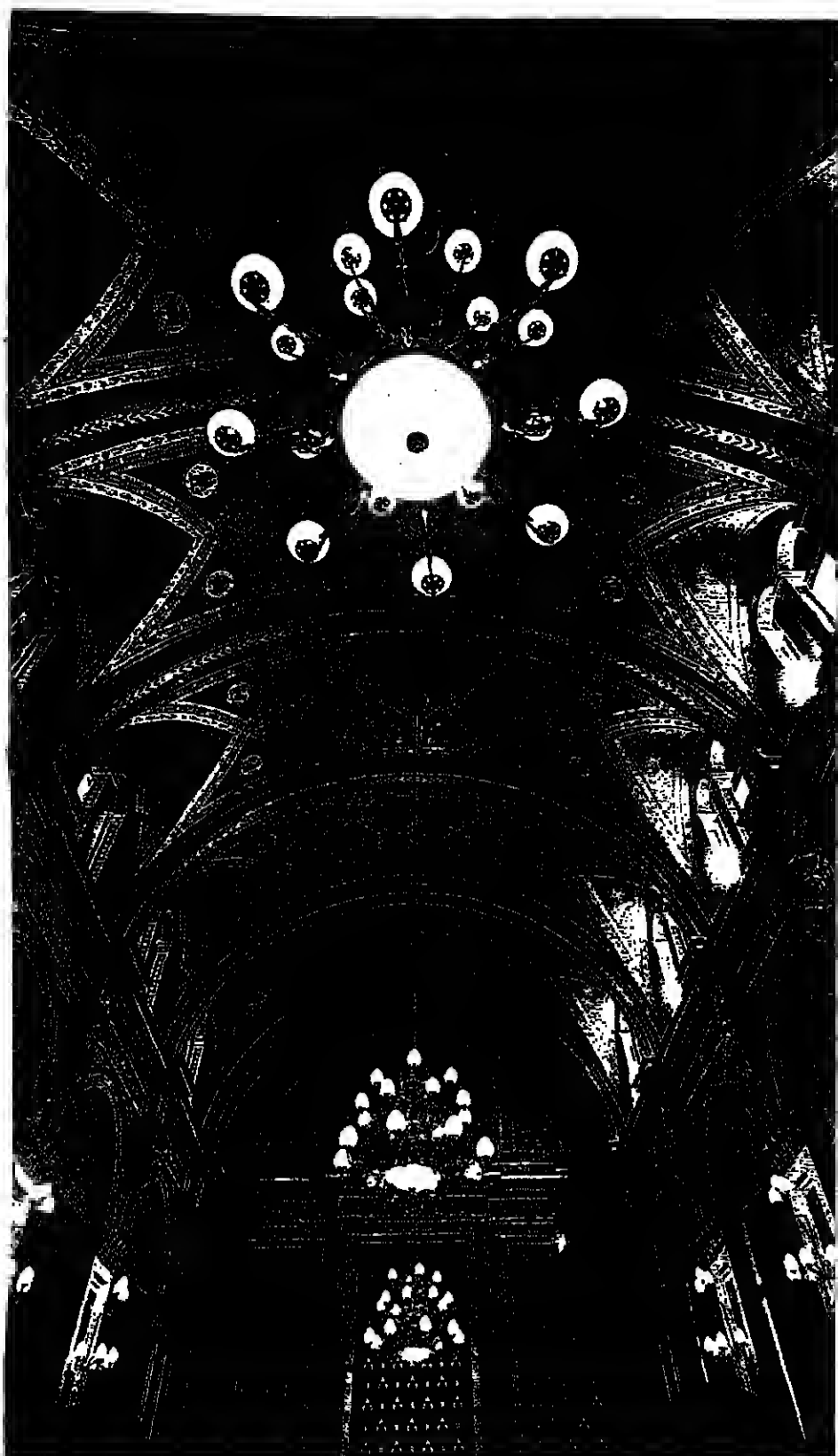
Call for
applic:

Call for
applic:

Call for
applic:

Call for
applic:

Call for
applic:



The Locarno Grand Reception Room at the Foreign Office Photograph: David Rose

Secret service remains closed

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office may be opening its doors to the public gaze, but there is one arm of Britain's overseas representation which most certainly is not: MI6, or Her Majesty's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). Britain's overseas intelligence-gatherers, or spies, are not having an open day; nor will tourists be invited into their headquarters to gawp.

In some ways, SIS has less of a problem with external image than the FCO. Its brand-new post-modernist building in Vauxhall Cross in south London expresses its soul with peculiar accuracy: mysterious, multifaceted and muted, with a discreet cluster of aerials

and dishes tucked away on the roof. Its public persona is set for it by James Bond of the films, dashing, romantic and cheeky.

The reality is probably a little closer to the James Bond of Ian Fleming's books: upper class, with a drink problem and a fragmented personal life. John Le Carré's books show a similar, and less warm - if just as romantic - picture.

SIS has made a number of attempts to modernise for the post-Cold War era. Newer recruits come from many social backgrounds and women are increasingly represented. Its tasks have been extended to include "drugs and thugs" - counter-narcotics work and a focus on criminals. It is also said to be

working harder at fighting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and developing its economic espionage.

But then nobody really knows, because it does not have any responsibility to explain itself. It gives regular lunches for media editors, and that is about it.

This air of mystery is something that SIS cultivates, and regards almost as a weapon in itself. It is still highly regarded around the world, and in both the Balkans and the Caucasus, for instance, people ascribe to it far more influence than it possesses. But then perhaps that is the point: the image is more important than the reality.

-Andrew Marshall

Just another normal day of sex and drugs at the Foreign Office

From the moment he became Foreign Secretary in May, Robin Cook showed he meant business. Within a fortnight he had produced a "Mission Statement," setting out the Foreign Office's role on the eve of a new millennium. Then came public hearings to launch a review of Britain's strategic security and defence requirements, outlines of a new Ethical Foreign Policy, followed by stricter guidelines for British arms exports. But for sheer spectacle nothing matched yesterday's "Open Day," as 1,000 invited guests from around the country - sixth formers, school careers advisers and community groups - made some of Whitehall's most discreet and stately corridors their own.

They weren't there for fun; nor was the preponderance of darker skins and female voices accidental. Mr Cook had a double purpose: to attract more women and ethnic minorities into the service, and demonstrate the Foreign Office was free of its starchy past.

At times the juxtaposition of old and new was positively jarring. The setting was the splendid Durbar Court, encrusted with marble and mosaics, phys-

ical heart of the vanished India Office, and named after the durbar, or formal reception, held by maharajahs or British Governors to mark a great occasion of state. Yesterday Foreign Office set out stalls promoting its thoroughly modern wares: immigration and human rights, export promotion, even the FCO's Internet site.

A few shrinking violets stayed away, among them of course Her Majesty's intelligence services. But the presentable face of British foreign policy was out in force - from the European Union Presidency specialists to the environment, science and energy department to the division dealing with drugs and international crime.

"Yes, it's all real," assured Clare Fallon, currently assigned to the department but hoping for a posting to the Caribbean, as she displayed a selection of seized illicit substances, cannabis resin, ecstasy pills, a bag of crack cocaine, and a tiny brick of diamorphine base used for heroin, displayed like dead butterflies in small black plastic boxes.

Next door, the ghosts of

British India past - a Marquess Dalhousie, Governor General from 1848 and 1856, and a jewelled and sabred Eckbald-ud-Dowlah, unsuccessful pretender to the throne of Oudh in the 1830s, who thereafter lived out for 40 years a saintly life in Arabia - bemusedly gazed down as the high tech rites of the late 20th century unfolded before them.

Two live satellite video conferences had been laid on for the packed roomful of guests: the first with the High Commissioner and his staff in Singapore, the second with Ekaterinburg to mark the formal re-opening of a British consulate in the west Siberian city after an interval of nearly 80 years. A remarkable occasion - so remarkable indeed that Mr Cook ventured a few carefully practised words of Russian.

That done, the Foreign Secretary invited a fortunate few into his office, to make his point in person. "We need more women and minorities, and a Foreign Office that really representative of modern Britain, in which merit's the only criterion," he said.

And the problem is real

enough. Women account for only 35 per cent of Foreign Office's 6,000 staff, compared with a general civil service average of over 50 per cent. At the most senior grades, the disparity is worse. Of Britain's 154 ambassadors and heads of mission around the world, only 9 are women. Ethnic minorities are even less in evidence, just 3.3 per cent of UK-based staff at home and overseas. Not one has climbed to the rank of head of department or ambassador.

Were the setting Washington instead of London, the solution would be affirmative action, even the dreaded "Q-word", quotas. Britain vows it will not indulge in such gerrymandering. "What we want is more women and minorities applying," one official said, "so that more stand a chance of selection." And some old harriers are crumbling. In 1997, for the first time, Oxbridge did not supply a majority at the "policy entry point" as the fast stream for high fliers is now rolled.

And so the show rolled on. Sir John Cole, head of the Diplomatic Service had provided the welcome. "Don't pay too much attention to me," he

began, noting he was about to retire as the FO's senior civil servant. "We want you to see what the thousands of people who work here do." A diplomat's life was challenging and exciting, but "not all roses," he said. Many postings were uncomfortable, and "some are dangerous." After three hours the Foreign Office's most extraordinary morning of modern times was over. "This is not a stuffy, hidebound place, full of men in pinstripe suits sitting as if with umbrellas up their spines," Mr Cook said in parting. "I hope we shook some of your stereotypes, and that some of you will apply to work here."

And some may, albeit for different reasons. "I really love the interiors," said one girl, as she surveyed the panelling and chandeliers of Mr Cook's own vast office and the window from which Lord Grey watched the lights go out over Europe. For Anthea Bright, a 16 year old schoolgirl from Wembley, "the travel and the work abroad would be great." Everyone though seemed to have had a great time, not least the diplomats who threw the bash. Is the FO stuffy? Not a bit of it.

-Rupert Cornwell

DON'T MISS IT!



£10 OFF

The Ultimate Soccer Encyclopaedia on CD ROM



Includes:

- ★ 140 video clips
- ★ 2 HOURS of commentary and interviews
- ★ Profiles on top 100 clubs
- ★ Factfiles on 3,000 players
- ★ The goals from Euro '96
- PLUS
- ★ The Ultimate Soccer Quiz

End of season offer

NOW ONLY £19.99*

Available at all major stores, including Comet, Dixons, HMV, Electronic Boutique and Game

*RRP £29.99

Technical Requirements: - PC Windows '95 and MAC compatible Recommended 8Mb RAM Double speed CD-ROM drive a mirror media product Distributed by VSI - Tel. 01628 477007



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL IB - External Relations
DIRECTORATE FOR LATIN AMERICA

Call for submission of applications under the

alfa Latin America Academic Training

In the following fields:

- Mobility of postgraduates
- Mobility of students

Only groups of universities or other higher education institutions may apply

For information and application forms, contact:

BAT/CEEETA

Rue Joseph II / Joseph II straat 36 - 4°
B - 1000 Bruxelles / Brussel
Tel: (322) 219 04 53
Fax: (322) 219 63 84

EC REPRESENTATION IN UNITED KINGDOM

Jean Monnet House
8, Storey's Gate
London SW1 P3 AT, United Kingdom
Tel: (41-71) 973 19 92 Fax: (41-71) 973 19 00

Closing date for submission of applications: 31/10/1997

He dresses the world, but Britain won't pay the price for Hussein Chalayan



Bold and brash: Alexander McQueen has sponsorship for his latest collection, but struggled in the past. Photograph: PA

On Thursday, London Fashion Week kicks off – and all eyes will be on Swinging London once more. British fashion rules the world, and more overseas buyers than ever are expected to attend the collections.

Yet last week, Hussein Chalayan, one of our hottest designer exports, was without a sponsor for his show. Tamsin Blanchard, Fashion Editor, reports

Hussein Chalayan, the Turkish-Cypriot born, London-raised and Central Saint Martin's educated designer, is one of three reasons overseas buyers and the press will be stopping off at London Fashion Week, between Milan, Paris and New York. Along with Alexander McQueen and Antonio Berardi, Chalayan is responsible for making London swing. He sells in the UK, France, Italy, the United States, Hong Kong and Japan, and was nominated as designer of the year at last year's British Fashion Awards.

Since his show last spring, Chalayan has been seeking a sponsor for his spring/summer 1998 collection, scheduled for next Saturday night. But this week, after approaching UK drinks companies and other potential sponsors, he was left without anyone to foot the bill – and staging a fashion show, as any designer knows, does not come cheap. So with no support from British business forthcoming, he turned for help to the land of his birth, and secured some financial support from the North Cyprus Tourism Centre.

It is still a fraction of the amount he needs, but the show will go on, albeit in a



Hussein Chalayan: Lack of support

smaller, more intimate form. "It seemed like the only place that would give me support at the last minute," says Chalayan. However, the British Fashion Council has since helped by giving Chalayan a venue for free.

While he has backing for the manufacture of his collections, his business partners are not millionaires; fashion designers are usually left to their own devices to raise funds for putting on their shows. A sum of around £45,000 is the minimum needed to rent a venue, lighting, stage designers, hair and make-up, pay for invitations, security and, of course, models. However, if they like the designer, many models will work for an outfit in lieu of a fee. Big fashion houses like Chanel will spend closer to £500,000 for a single show.

Previously, Chalayan has been sponsored by Absolut and Nokia. "They sponsor you fresh from college, but they don't realise the cycle doesn't end there," he says. "There is always a need for sponsorship."

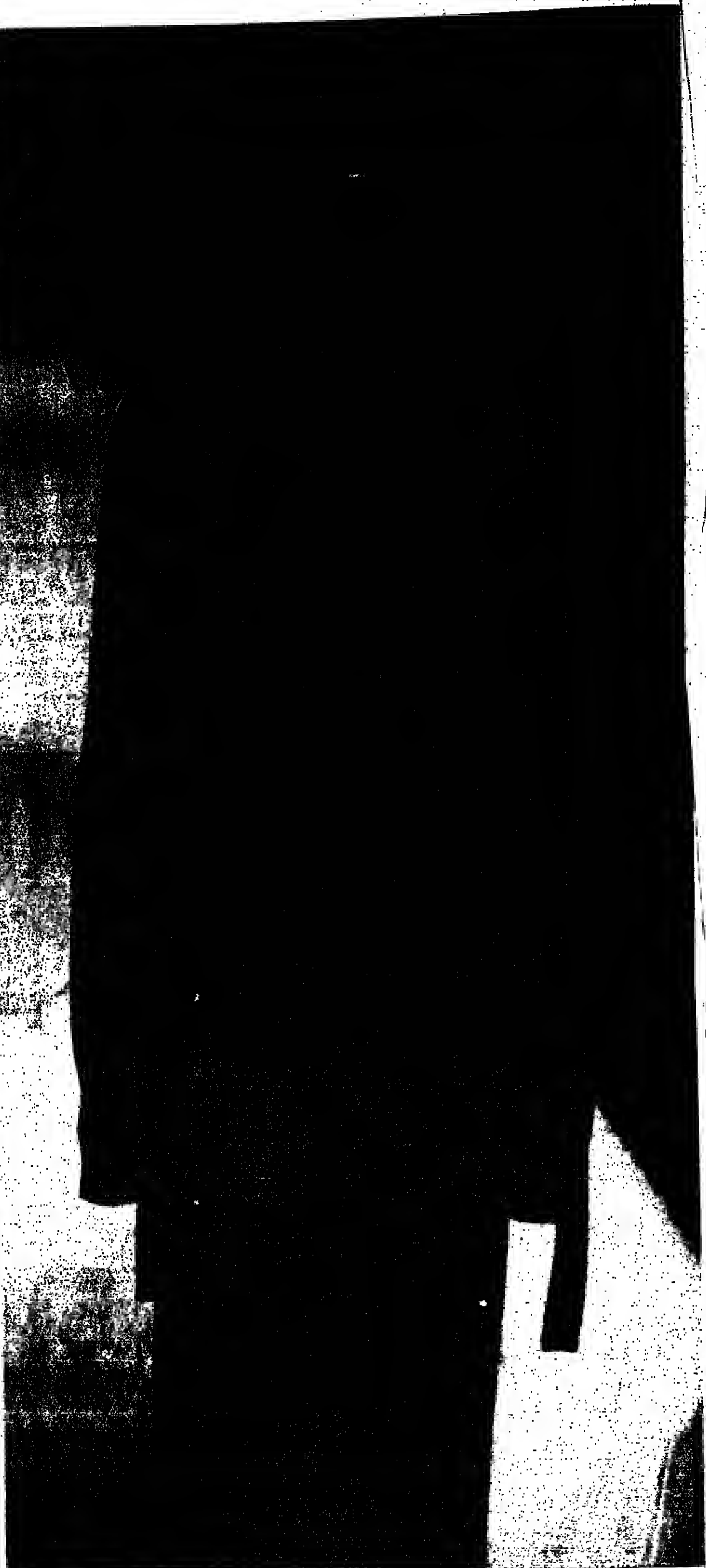
Chalayan, along with our other leading designers, sees his ideas plagiarised by high street stores, but gets little back in return. While Clements Ribeiro have found salvation with a deal with Dorothy Perkins, and Pearce Flonda landed a two-way deal with Debenhams that saved them from bankruptcy last year.

Every season, there is a battle to get a share in the sponsorship pie. Even our most famous export, Alexander McQueen, has seen deals fall through at the last minute. His show will be sponsored by ICI, which is building the stage, and American Express. Janet Fischgrund, spokeswoman for McQueen says: "sponsorship is an enormous issue for young designers, it's impossible to fund these shows on your own."

Antonio Berardi, feted by American Vogue as the Next Big Thing, has sponsorship from Courvoisier. This season the designer will also come out at the end of the show wearing a pair of designer specs, courtesy of David Chulow. However, sponsorship for next season remains uncertain.

Priyesh Shah, Berardi's business partner, said yesterday, "It's crazy we still have to rely on sponsorship. Companies don't understand the importance of fashion as a medium... yet the kudos of a lot of British companies like Marks & Spencer and The Burton Group relies on the hype of Cool Britannia."

Simoo Ward, administrator for the British Fashion Council, said yesterday, "Hussein Chalayan is one of our major names; we're going to make sure he has a show. He is an important part of the resurgence of London." But the BFC is not a sponsorship marriage broker. Clearly one of the things we excel at is new talent... It is the new names like Hussein Chalayan that have brought the focus back to London.



Object of desire: Hussein Chalayan's simple elegance is a firm favourite with fashion pundits

How London became 'God's gift to fashion'

The grandfather of British fashion, Roland Klein, 59, has seen London fashion move full circle. He moved to the capital to learn English in the Sixties, from a job assisting Karl Lagerfeld in Paris. And now he is seeing London explode a second time.

In the days of Mary Quant's mini skirts, there were not shows as such. It was not until 1975 that Armette Worsley Taylor set up the London Designer Collections, a group of young designers who showed their clothes on rails in hotels around London. Then the shows were about selling clothes. "We didn't have all of the razzmatazz that we have today. It was purely a selling exhibition," Klein said. "Now it's all turned into a circus. There's a lot of hype, not necessarily turning into cash."

Klein gave up showing his classic, grown-up collections on the catwalks last season. His selling figures did not suffer.

Like many designers, he has been selling to store buyers for the past three weeks: the catwalk show is not the place where orders are made. The business of selling takes place in the designers' showroom in the run up to fashion week.

Ten years ago, London experienced a similar hype to that of today, with the spotlight on names such as Body Map, John Galiano, Helen Storey, and Katharine Hamnett. But the 'brouhaha' was short-lived.

The Eighties did little for the commercial sense of designers who boasted that they were creative geniuses, not business men. The international press and buyers lost interest in London and Britain's biggest names looked to Paris for a platform for their work.

Katharine Hamnett, John Galiano, and Vivienne Westwood moved to show in Paris in the late Eighties when recession hit and buyers could afford to visit only one venue. In 1994, the British Fashion Council, headed by Clinton Silver, promoted New Generation Designers, sponsored by Marks & Spencer. The new talent, spearheaded by Alexander McQueen, has focused attention back on London. Last season, overseas press doubled, and buyer numbers rose 30 per cent.

But Roland Klein worries for the future of the young names. "The British Fashion Council wants the hype and it certainly brings a lot of people to London... But a lot of the names on the schedule should not be showing on the catwalks. They go from art college to their own collection and to the catwalk in the space of six months. A lot of them are sponsored and really they would be better off putting the money into their businesses. They're doing it all the wrong way round."

—Tamsin Blanchard

The Independent is offering you 2 FREE magazines from a selection of the UK's leading style magazines. Just fill in this form and send it to: The Independent, 200 Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. To bring you the best of the UK's top magazine publishers.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

Magazines I would like to receive:
1. _____
2. _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____

I am interested in receiving more information about these magazines.

By sending this form, I agree to receive more information about these magazines.

JAYICO 150

15/PROMOTION

THE INDEPENDENT
SATURDAY
20 SEPTEMBER 1997

The Independent and Independent on Sunday are offering you 2 FREE magazines from a selection of the UK's leading style magazines - Vanity Fair, Arena, The Face, GQ, GQ Active and Tatler. To bring you this exclusive offer, for the October issues of the magazines, we have teamed up with Condé Nast and Wogadon two of the UK's top magazine publishers.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR TWO FREE MAGAZINES

■ Simply collect 3 differently numbered tokens out of 9 tokens published in The Independent and Independent on Sunday from Saturday 20 September to Sunday 28 September.

■ Affix the 3 tokens to one of the application vouchers published in The Independent on Monday 22 September, Thursday 25 September and Saturday 27 September; and in the Independent on Sunday on 28 September.

■ Complete the application voucher indicating which magazine you have chosen and exchange this at the local retail outlet stocking your selected magazine.

■ The closing date for claiming your free magazine is Saturday 4 October 1997.

■ To claim 2 free magazines you must use two separate application vouchers each with three differently numbered tokens.

■ Maximum of 2 free magazines per household.



The Face

The Face invented the style magazine as we know it, and for 17 years has been at the forefront of British culture. The most fashionable magazine in the world. The Face is an encyclopaedia of style, renowned

the world over for being at the cutting edge of modern culture, featuring everything from music and fashion to art and books.

The Face enjoys enormous respect within the worlds of fashion and publishing, and is

one of the few magazines that can claim to be globally influential. The New York Times recently called it 'the primary chronicle of youth culture', while Giorgio Armani calls it a 'touchstone'.

Vanity Fair

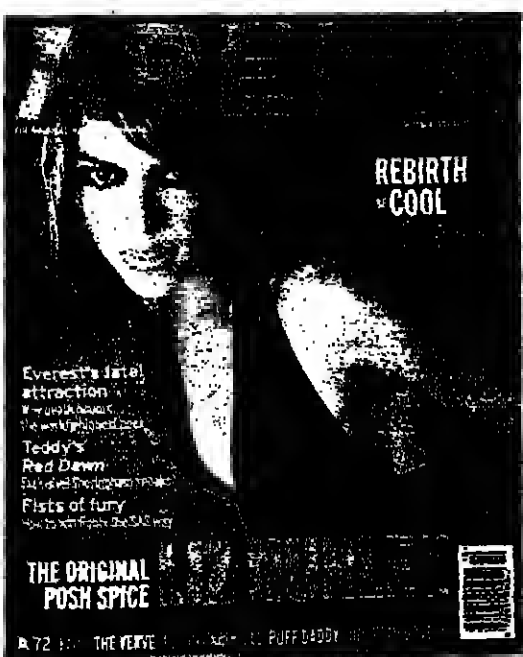
With a unique mix of glamour and grit, Vanity Fair opens doors to Hollywood, high finance, politics and culture, tracking the latest scandals, the greatest achievements and the owest stars. With the

greatest stable of writers, photographers and artists, Vanity Fair is the monthly magazine with the timeliness of a oews weekly and the depth of a good book, a feast for the eyes and the mind. Consistently hitting the headlines with ground-

breaking stories, the magazine achieves unparalleled access, and it's journalistic scope ranges from of-the-moment to the unexpected. Whether a story involves a world leader or a cultural icon, you will find it within the pages of Vanity Fair.



2 FREE MAGAZINES



Tatler

The October issue of Tatler catches up with Christie Brinkley, the covergirl's cover girl, and goes inside her Hamptons home. The magazine tracks down the Hollywood Britpack, while Henry Dent-Brocklehurst and fiancée Lili Maltese dress up in butter-soft, sharp-cut, sexy and sleek leather. Plus, is your sofa more a hit-list than a hit-list - Tatler assesses the British designers who will help your house look hip, and a tribute to Sir James Goldsmith, a ynamic tycoon, dynastic family man and would-be statesman, through the eyes of his daughter Isabel.

GQ

October sees the 100th issue of GQ and celebrates in style with Paul Whitehouse. David Bowie dons Paul Smith, Reservoir Dog Michael Marsden explains how Hollywood's leading hound is creating a new breed of trouble, and Tyra Banks goes back to basics. Plus, Paul Newman's motor-racing passion, the City addicts chasing the dragon and promotion, and the best blather from the last 100 issues of GQ.

The Face

The team behind Trainspotting are back with a fine romance. The Face goes on the set of A Life Less Ordinary in Utah, and has a heart-to-heart with the film's stars, Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz. Plus: Embrace, the rising British rock band; Hixmox, the 20-year-old Japanese schoolgirl whose titillating pics of her friends is causing a revolution; Lil' Kim; board art; John Leguizamo; Photek; drag kings; and an exclusive interview with the Dalai Lama. Sort of...

GQ Active

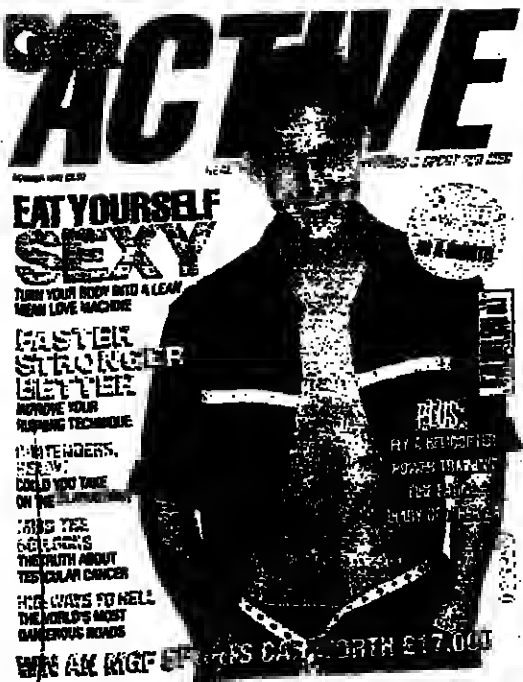
The health, fitness and sport for men, brings the reader the ultimate eat yourself sexy plan. David Coulthard reveals his hi-tech work-out which is as advanced as the McLaren he drives. Plus, ways you can improve your running technique, the GQ Active trainer top ten, and how to take oo The Gladiators. The October issue of GQ Active comes with a special edition 256 page guide to Daring Days Out in the UK.

Arena

Exclusive interview with, and sensational photographs of Elizabeth Hurley, the original posh spice. The women who wore The Dress tells Arena the fame game isn't funny anymore. Plus: climbing Everest the hard way; Teddy Sherrington's new boots and panties; what they don't teach you at SAS school; how to tell if you've got a small penis; and the problems with Naomi Campbell, Jimmy McGovern and the Cherokee Jeep.

Vanity Fair

Vanity Fair features a special tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, looking back over her last summer, whether flying to Bosnia to crusade against land mines or finding romance on the Riviera. The decade-long partnership of Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana is explored, the affinity of Weegee, the 1940s crime photographer, for the underbelly of New York is examined, and with virtually every icon of the British stage, appearing in an eight-hour, \$13 million television adaptation of A Dance to the Music of Time, Vanity Fair predicts a revival of Anthony Powell's masterwork.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. This offer is only available to residents of the UK.
2. To qualify for the offer, applicants must collect 3 differently numbered tokens together with a completed application voucher. Tokens are published between Sept 20 & 28, 1997. The application voucher is published on Sept 22, 25, 27 & 28, 1997.
3. The tokens and completed application voucher must be exchanged at your local retailer by Oct 4, 1997.
4. Only the application voucher and tokens

- printed in The Independent/Independent on Sunday are valid. Photocopies or any other reproductions will not be accepted.
5. The offer is for one free magazine per correct application selected only from the list featured here and detailed on the application voucher.
6. Maximum of two free magazines per household.
7. The offer is subject to availability. No cash alternatives will be offered.
8. The promoters are The Independent, Condé Nast and Wogadon.



M1 murder case may be solved, 20 years on

Detectives could be on the brink of finding the murderer of a hitch-hiker whose body was found by the M1 27 years ago.

Barbara Mayo was discovered in Ault Hucknall Wood, Derbyshire, a mile and a half from junction 29 of the motorway, on 18 October 1970. The 24-year-old student teacher's killer has never been traced, although the investigation into her death was never officially closed.

When it was launched it was the biggest probe ever undertaken by a British force, with 120 officers involved at its height.

The Derbyshire force has now reopened an incident room at Chesterfield police station following what it described as a "major new development".

Police last night refused to disclose the nature of the fresh information, but will announce it on Monday along with a hotline number for the public to call.

Assistant Chief Constable Don Dowaston said: "This investigation has never closed since Barbara's body was found in Derbyshire in the autumn of 1970."

"We will be releasing important new information which may help us bring the killer to justice."

Police are expected to renew their appeal for sightings of Barbara, who was last seen carrying a bag with a distinctive elephant motif.

She had apparently set off from her home in London at around 11am on October 12 to hitchhike to Catterick. Police believe she was killed that day.

More than 47,000 statements were taken during the first four years of the inquiry into her death.

Police interviewed 126,300 people, checked more than 72,000 Morris Traveller vans and took 78,000 calls in their incident room.

But, despite checking the records of 28,000 criminals and following up more than 76,000 leads, they never found Barbara's killer.

Seven years ago officers established similarities between her murder and that of Jacki Ansell-Lamb, who was killed in Cheshire in March of the same year.



Looking to the future: Robin Guenier, director of Taskforce 2000 Photograph: Peter Macdarmid

Industry must pay for 2000 timebomb

The Government insisted yesterday that it is taking the "Millennium Bomb" - which could paralyse computers after December 31 1999 - seriously. But Barbara Roche, the minister in charge, also emphasised that industry, not government, must pay. Yet the CBI seems to be playing the issue quietly too, reports Charles Arthur, Science Editor.

"It is a huge problem. And there is so little time left to check and fix and test our systems," the industry minister Barbara Roche told *The Independent* yesterday. She also insisted that "Industry - not the taxpayer - must bear the cost of putting it right."

But it also appears that industry is only slowly beginning to think about a problem whose deadline cannot be moved, and now lies just a few hundred working days away. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has resisted calls for the topic of the "Millennium Bomb" to be included in the talks at its annual conference starting on 9 November in Birmingham - even though Philip Wright, on the CBI's "year 2000" group, thinks business understanding of the importance of the topic is "patchy".

The Government was stung by the *Independent's* exclusive report in which Robin Guenier, head of Taskforce 2000 warned that the effects of not correcting the problem would be "devastating". He insisted that he needs more funding to get the message across to industry.

But Ms Roche said that the Department of Trade and Industry had already taken action by encouraging the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and computing companies to set up Taskforce 2000 in the first place.

She met Mr Guenier last Monday and "had a very positive meeting discussing what action needs to be taken now." She added: "I am extremely concerned about this issue, and the report of the meeting is wholly inaccurate." Mr Guenier said that after he warned Ms Roche he "got no response. It's all woolly; I get no feel that anybody believes me."

Ms Roche hit back by saying that "funding for Taskforce 2000 is a complete red herring" because it is industry rather than the Government which has to bear the cost. However, she did not mention how much money the Government has committed to checking and updating its very old and enormously complex computer systems for tax collection, hospitals and social security.

The Millennium Bomb arises because some computer programs use only two digits to represent the year - meaning that after 1999 they might think the next year is 1900, not 2000. Eradicating this problem cannot be automated, raising huge problems for any organisation which relies on computers.

Conservation victory for toads and newts

Conservationists yesterday claimed victory in their battle to save one of Britain's most important sites for toads and newts from being ploughed up.

It is understood that English Nature, which controls Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), is to draw up a new agreement with the farmer, Justin Harmer, who owns Offham Marshes near Lewes, East Sussex. Friends of the Earth (FoE) said that the move was made following pressure on Michael Meacher, environment minister, to intervene.

The marshes are adjacent to Offham Down, another SSSI also owned by Mr Harmer, which became the focus of a row during the general election after it was ploughed up to take advantage of European subsidies to grow flax.

Matt Phillips, of Friends of the Earth, said the reprieve for Offham Marshes was good news for wildlife: a celebratory picnic would be held tomorrow. The site is home to one of the most significant populations of toads, frogs and newts in the country.

But, he said, 300 out of the 6,500 SSSIs in Britain were damaged every year and there needed to be better legal protection for the country's most important wild places. "We want to make sure that nothing like this can happen again."

Another SSSI in Porth Ceirial, Gwynedd, has just been damaged after a management agreement was allowed to lapse. An unusual feature of the remote coastal site was a sand dune perched on the cliff top where top soil has now been dumped.

A Department of the Environment spokeswoman said the Mr Meacher has asked officials to begin open-ended discussions with interested parties about what changes to the law might be necessary to promote better management of SSSIs and increase protection for them.

— Louise Jury

Teachers set for clash with ministers over inflation-busting pay claim

Teaching unions say that without a substantial salary rise there is no hope of resolving the recruitment crisis.

But ministers, already under similar pressure from nurses and headteachers, are calling for restraint. Lucy Ward reports.

The significant gap between teachers' demands for higher pay and government insistence on moderation became clear yesterday as both sides published evidence to the profession's pay review body.

In a joint submission to the School Teachers' Review Body, three of the main teaching unions called for a substantial increase "significantly above that required merely to keep pace with inflation and average earnings increases".

Without such a rise, which would need to be fully funded by the Government, there would be no hope of resolving the growing crisis in teacher recruitment, the unions said.

The National Association of Head Teachers issued the same warning last week when it sub-



David Blunkett: Calling for a 'moderate' increase

mitted a claim for a 10 per cent increase.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, however, called on the pay review body to recommend a "moderate overall increase" in line with other public-sector staff and "within the overall requirement for pay restraint". He said it was "untrue and unhelpful" to describe the recommendation as a pay freeze - a charge levelled by union leaders.

Mr Blunkett said parents

would wish the Government to "get the balance right" in dividing an extra £1bn won for education in the summer budget between pay and other needs such as books and equipment.

The crisis in teacher supply has developed despite warnings to the previous government and the review body, according to the submission by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the National Union of Teachers and the Professional Association of Teachers.

Applications for primary teacher training have fallen by 11 per cent this year compared with last, despite an increase of almost 8 per cent in total university applications. Recruitment to secondary teacher training was below target for the third year running in 1996-7.

Applications for postgraduate certificate of education courses starting this month were also down by around 2 per cent compared with last year.

Potential recruits are being lured elsewhere by higher wages, including graduate starting salaries, unions say. Meanwhile, the age profile of the profession is worsening. Latest figures show that among teachers in 1995 fewer than one in ten men and one in five women were under 30.

The unions' submission also calls for a change to teachers' conditions of service to ensure staff are no longer required to teach classes of over 30 pupils. But the issue has caused a rift with the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which has submitted a separate pay claim. The ATL shares concerns over pay but believes ministers, who are committed to reducing class sizes over time, are unlikely to hand teachers the right to walk out if numbers grow too high.

SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is

the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us - any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans

Man charged with murdering Rachel

A man charged with murdering Rachel Barracough, 18, was remanded in custody for a week when he appeared before West Yorkshire magistrates yesterday.

Stephen Hughes, 46 - the father of Rachel's boyfriend, Karl - of Wakefield, was charged with murdering Rachel on waste ground near Wakefield between 4 and 7 September. No application for bail was made.

The body of the student, who lived with her parents in Bradford, was found 13 days ago with multiple stab wounds. Rachel lived with her parents, Malcolm, 54, and Hilary, 39, in Bankfoot, Bradford. She had an elder brother, Paul, and elder sister, Jane.

New breast cancer detector launched

A pioneering new technique which can detect breast cancer tumours that might otherwise be missed was launched yesterday at a London hospital.

The treatment, called a scintimammography, uses a radioactive tracer injected into the body to highlight any cancers in the breast which can then be identified on a scan. Doctors will use the technique if there is any doubt that cancerous cells may have gone undetected by a mammogram scan or other tests.

The Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, London, which helped pioneer the technique, is the first in the country to offer it to patients. About 30 hospitals should be using it in the next two months.

Stephen Lawrence hearing to be open

Members of the public will be allowed to attend the preliminary hearing for the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, who was stabbed to death at a bus stop in south London.

The hearing will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 8 October and will be held by former High Court judge Sir William Macpherson of Cluny at Woolwich Public Hall, Woolwich, south-east London.

The purpose of the hearing is to explain the procedures of the inquiry and to consider whether legal representation at the inquiry should be publicly funded.

سكنا ١٠٠٠

iservation
ory for
ds and new

ministers
claim

Stephen Law
hearing to be

MANY OF OUR
REDS, WHITES & ROSÉS
ARE NOW GOLDS,
SILVERS & BRONZES.



SUPERMARKET WINE
MERCHANT OF THE YEAR

Last week Waitrose was voted
Supermarket Wine Merchant of the
Year and collected 135 awards,
including Red Wine of the Year for
our £5.75 Cosme Palacio Rioja 1995.

Why not visit your local Waitrose
and judge our range and value for
yourself? Or call Waitrose Wine
Direct and order a case of our
award winning wines for delivery
straight to your door.

WAITROSE
food shops of the John Lewis Partnership

altogether better value

FOR THE LOCATION OF YOUR LOCAL WAITROSE CALL 0800 188882 OR FOR DELIVERY CALL WAITROSE WINE DIRECT (REF: PB12) ON 0800 188881



Opera drama as director of ENO leaves post

Dennis Marks has resigned as head of the English National Opera. The sudden decision has taken the world of opera by surprise. David Lister looks at what might lie behind the decision to quit the troubled institution.

The decision by Dennis Marks to leave his position as general director of the English National Opera marks the end of a four-year period which has seen the company constantly criticised and failing to match the reputation it gained in the Eighties.

Most particularly, it reflects the failure of Mr Marks to achieve his dream of moving the company from its home at the London Coliseum into a new purpose-built theatre.

The ENO has applied for lottery money to move into a new home, but the plan has

been attacked by former arts minister David Mellor and by members of the ENO's own audience. Though renovations are needed to the Coliseum, many believe its location on the edge of Trafalgar Square and a main line station is ideal.

The ENO board met earlier this week and the proposed move was discussed. According to one source, the board was beginning to have doubts about the proposed relocation, and this may have hastened Mr Marks's decision to leave the company and concentrate on projects in film and television. He was at the BBC before joining ENO.

The board was also said to be unhappy that the company had not yet received Arts Council "stabilisation funding" from the lottery, and to have felt that concentration on moving location may have led to this.

There has also been criticism that the company failed to project itself sufficiently as "the people's opera" at a time when

the Government was admonishing the Royal Opera for not fulfilling that role.

Paul Daniel, who joined the company as music director from Opera North only last

month, will take over the artistic leadership of the company until a replacement is found.

Leading contenders for the job are likely to include Patrick Deuchar, who recently resigned

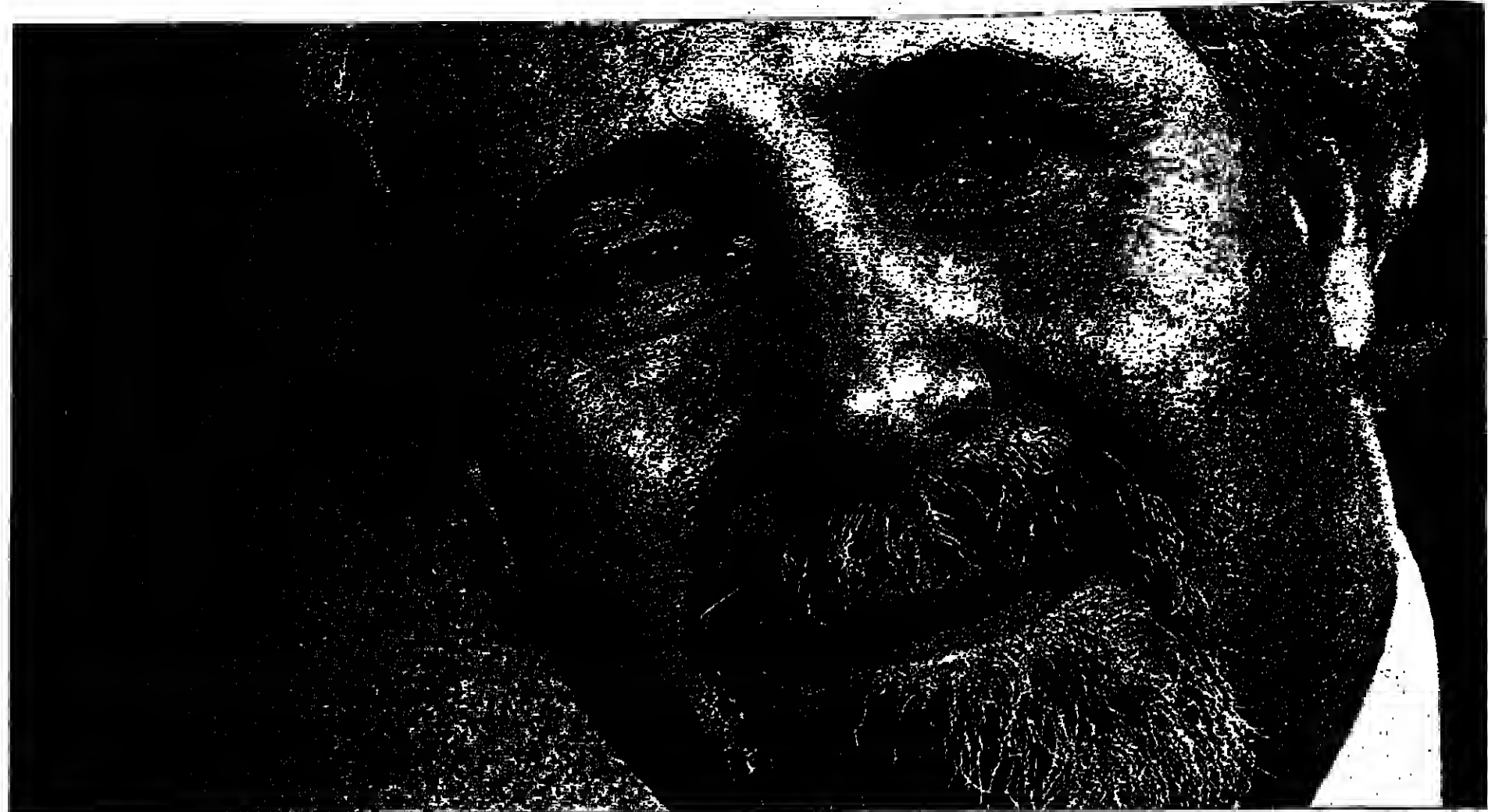
his position as chief executive of the Royal Albert Hall after a successful period there, and Nicholas Snowman, head of the South Bank Centre, who this week was disappointed to learn

that the Arts Council had deferred his lottery bid for a redevelopment of the Centre. Paul Daniel may also be considered.

Dennis Marks said yesterday:

"It has been a privilege and an inspiration to be part of English National Opera for the past four years. I leave behind 500 colleagues whose dedication and talent is unsurpassed in the

operatic world. With Paul Daniel now at the artistic helm, they can every confidence that ENO's special contribution to the nation's artistic life will grow and flourish."



Exit under fire: Dennis Marks, whose decision to quit the ENO came as a shock to the opera world

Photograph: Ed Webb

Film director's lost musical is found

A "lost" film from one of the great directors of British cinema has been uncovered and is to be screened for the first time in 65 years, it was announced yesterday.

His Lordship, by Michael Powell, dates from 1932 and was unearthed in Cheshire by a private collector who initially thought he had a well-known movie. It was Powell's eighth film, made when he was an unknown director. But he went on to make *The Red Shoes* in 1948, and to collaborate with Emeric Pressburger.

His Lordship is a musical comedy with a complex plot featuring a Cockney plumber who is also a peer, and a couple of comen. It is regarded as one of the better "quota quickies" produced at that time to satisfy the production requirements imposed on studios by the

1928 Cinematograph Film Act. It will be shown on 22 November at the British Film Institute's theatre at South Bank during the annual London Film Festival.

Ten pictures directed by Michael Powell Pictures are still unaccounted for, but it is feared that they may be lost forever as they were made on unstable film which decayed rapidly. Powell, regarded as an influential director, died in 1990.

The film *His Lordship* was found by a team from the BFI's archive unit, which said it was a lucky find. An archivist from the institute, Anne Fleming, said: "It is unlikely more than a handful of these films will resurface so when the archive is lucky enough to come across a lost orphan of cinema it is cause for celebration."

Ayres quits Royal Academy

A second member of the Royal Academy, the eminent and celebrated abstract painter Gillian Ayres, has resigned in protest against the "Sensation" exhibition and the painting of moors murderer, Myra Hindley. Her resignation follows that of sculptor Michael Sandle, who resigned in protest at the way the institution was being run.

The Royal Academy yesterday confirmed that Ms Ayres, 67, had resigned, but said it still intended to put the damaged Hindley painting back up

in the exhibition, despite the controversy it had caused and the two acts of vandalism against it on Thursday.

However, damage to the Hindley portrait is much more extensive than was first thought, Royal Academy officials said. A team of specialist conservators, fear that restoration of the portrait could be a problem.

Despite the damage, the portrait of Hindley is still clearly in full view to members of the public in a cordoned-off section of the gallery.

David Lister

STAPLES

The Office Superstore

FOR LOW PRICES EVERY DAY



£179.99 INC. VAT
SAMSUNG FAX MACHINE MODEL NO. SF100 SKU 278994

£5.89 INC. VAT
6 FAX ROLLS
SKU 278994
916mm x 15m x 12.7mm

£9.73 INC. VAT
5 REAMS OF COPIER PAPER
SKU 10000
A4, 80 gm, 500 sheets per ream

99p INC. VAT
LETTER TRAY
SKU 10000
Risers included

£1.69 INC. VAT
ECONOMY BOX FILE
SKU 10000
SAVE 60% OFF SALE



£849 INC. VAT
ATLANTIC K6 166 MMX MULTIMEDIA PC MODEL NO. AMD K6 166 MMX SKU 280172

£69.99 INC. VAT
HIGH BACK LEATHER CHAIR
SKU 10000
Our seat height adjuster and tilt action
Padded and reclining action

£4.99 INC. VAT
AT&T HANDHELD CALCULATOR
SKU 10000
5 digit display
Solar & battery powered

99p INC. VAT
10 PRETEXT BALL PENS
SKU 10000
Assorted colours

0% APR Example: Cash Price £849, 10% Deposit £84.90, 13 Monthly payments of £30.99, OR **29.9% APR** Example: Cash Price £849, 10% Deposit £84.90, 36 Monthly payments of £30.99.

FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER £100 (EXCL. VAT & DELIVERY CHARGE)

OPEN TO TRADE & PUBLIC 7 DAYS A WEEK MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-6 SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY Open 6 hours, times may vary

FOR YOUR NEAREST STAPLES STORE OR TO PLACE AN ORDER CALL 0800 14 14 14

ASTON	BIRMINGHAM	GLASGOW	LEEDS	LONDON	MANCHESTER	NOTTINGHAM	STOKE
BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	GLASGOW	LEEDS	LONDON	MANCHESTER	NOTTINGHAM	STOKE
BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	GLASGOW	LEEDS	LONDON	MANCHESTER	NOTTINGHAM	STOKE
BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	GLASGOW	LEEDS	LONDON	MANCHESTER	NOTTINGHAM	STOKE

USER-FRIENDLY

4 RHS Encyclopedias for £4.99 each

SAVE £140

THE LITERARY GUILD

Quality, Choice and Discount on EVERY book



Jeno Jando at work, rest and play: where else but behind a keyboard?

Mozart, Beethoven, Bartok, Haydn... You name it, Jeno Jando's got it taped. Michael Church meets the world's busiest pianist - where else but in the recording studio?

Jeno Jando, pronounced with two soft Js. Rings a bell? No? No list of the world's leading pianists - the 10 best, the twenty best, pick your number - ever does include the name, yet this 45-year-old Hungarian is without doubt the most prolific recording pianist alive, and by far the most widely sold.

But he's a "budget" pianist, churning out the goods which Naxos flogs for a fiver in Britain, 10 marks in Germany, 10 dollars in Australia - whatever the value of the lowest local note. Budget musicians carry no cachet: that's why you may not have heard of him. And if he's spreading himself around so much - across a repertoire ranging from Haydn and Beethoven via Grieg and Musorgsky to Chopin, Schumann and Liszt - can he really be any good?

Listen at random and see. You may conclude that his late Beethoven doesn't hold a candle to Alfred Brendel's, and that Shura Cherkassky extracted a magic from Schumann's *Kreisleriana* that totally evades the heavier-handed Jando. You may prefer young Yevgeny Kissin's Haydn, or Liszt's spell as cast by the brilliant Boris Berezovsky. But listen on, and you realise something else. *Nothing from Jando jars*. It's all decent stuff, and sometimes more than that. His Schumann *Carnaval* turns its cartwheels with absolute success; his playing of

'I've started, so I'll finish': the true confessions of a serial recording star

Rachmaninov concertos has a clean, lyrical strength; his trademark is a muscular clarity, devoid of affectation. Perhaps promiscuity and promise are compatible after all.

How did Jando's ethnomusicologist Naxos's resident virtuoso come about? "By accident," says the budget label's German founder, Klaus Heymann, speaking from his eyrie in Hong Kong. "Jeno Jando was just one of the Hungarian artists we were distributing in the Pacific, and we told the company we needed someone to record the three most popular Beethoven sonatas for our first Naxos disc. And they recommended him. When it was done, I sat down with my wife [the Japanese violinist, and Naxos recording star, Takako Nishizaki] and listened, and we realised it was wonderful playing. So we faxed Hungaroton back, saying, 'Could he do the lot?'"

Ten years and 100 CDs later, Jando still sounds bemused. At the beginning I just recorded - I didn't even know which company it was for. It became continuous, first the complete Beethoven sonatas, then the complete Mozart concertos, then the Haydn sonatas, then the Bartok concertos, then Bach's *Well-tempered Clavier*. I'm now in the middle of the complete Schubert. He makes scaling these musical peaks sound as routine as a jog round the park, and he's talking in mid-recording session (well, where else would he be?).

The job in hand is Beethoven's

Triple Concerto, which he's committing to disc with the aid of violinist Dong-Suk Kang and cellist Maria Kliegel, two more veterans from the Naxos stable. The conductor Bela Drahos and his orchestra, the Nicolaus Esterházy Sinfonia, exist to record for Naxos, and Budapest's Italian Institute is now used for little else. Musical production lines don't often come as neat.

The only sign of stress is the ubiquitous lighting-up of Marlboros, whenever a halt is called. Jando chain-smokes with the best of them, but I've seldom seen such a cool operator. No matter how often a re-take is demanded, the elegance of his playing never falters; there's no petulance, no outraged vanity, just a patient, quizzical smile, and every so often during pauses a bit of out-of-key clowning, to raise a laugh among the violins. He's the class joker, as well as the star.

But that's just the point: he isn't a star. Heymann had told me that Jando "didn't lend himself" to the sort of hype on which every pianist in the international circus willingly or unwillingly rides. There's no flamboyance in his approach to the keyboard; his only quick is an unconscious clacking of his tongue against his teeth, which his producer neutralises by interposing an unlit cigarette. There's nothing flashy about his off-stage persona, nothing commercially exploitable. He simply lives to play. Two years ago he developed a tumour in the palm of his right hand; during the three weeks after the

operation, he learnt and performed Ravel's Piano Concerto in D, which is played with the left hand only.

I'd been told he bates giving interviews, and that his last was three years ago. When prompted, he sketches out his trajectory with brisk modesty: musical parents, normal childhood, reluctance to practise ("merely" four or five hours a day when he was a teenager - we Westerners know nothing about hard work). "I count my career as starting when I won [bird prize in the Beethoven competition, when I was 18]. He apologises for his English, which is slow and awkward.

He studied in Budapest in the shadow of Andras Schiff, and level-headed with two other pianists - Zoltan Kocsis and Dezo Ranczi - who both got off to smart careers while he was left on the starting-blocks. Why did they start faster than him? "The state chose them to represent Hungary abroad."

Why did it not choose him as well? "Perhaps because I was not from Budapest, but from the countryside."

This, I'm told later by his producer, is a characteristically diplomatic reply: the truth was that he didn't oil up to party politicians. When he did get started, it was as a recitalist in the Hungarian provinces. "It was pleasant, because the state supported musical life - though I don't want to imply that the Communist era was a good one."

Music in Hungary now is in a desperate plight, with the best teachers

and students haemorrhaging to the West, but Jando remains optimistic: "Somehow our musical life still works. There are just too many pianists." He's still in regular touch with both Kocsis and Ranczi, "but we're now so different that we are no longer a threat to each other."

He superstitiously always carries a score with him, but never consults it when playing: he has a formidable memory. For pleasure, he listens to the great departed - conductors like Klemperer and Furtwängler, pianists like Horowitz, Schnabel and Richter. And no, he isn't dismayed by comparisons: "I have my own approach to the masterworks." Is there anything he can't do technically? "Thanks be to God, apart from a relatively small stretch, I can do almost anything I want."

He wants to re-record some of the Beethoven sonatas - "I have more maturity now" - and Naxos will not stand in his way. He plays for a flat fee each time - no royalties - but that's all right by him. I leave him mulling over whether he will record some Liszt for a Japanese producer later in the day. He may, but then again he may not. It depends on the money. He isn't bothered either way.

He's shortly due to record Mozart's four-hand piano music with one of his conservatoire students, and he also records with his mezzo-soprano wife. "I'm so happy to have this amazing opportunity, to record everything that I love." Budget schmudget: this is a man in heaven.

Jeno Jando's bestsellers: *Mozart Concertos Nos 12, 14 & 21 (Naxos 8.550202)*, *Beethoven Sonatas Nos 14, 21 & 23 (8.550294)*. His latest release is *Liszt's Transcendental Studies (8.553119)*

THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

A messy business, this thing called life

Everything leaks. We ourselves begin life leaking out of every available orifice, and we carry on leaking all the way to the grave (even there, we don't stop for a while). Our control may improve for a while in the middle, but we can't ever hope to stop the leaking altogether. The knowledge of life's leakiness is the basis of most farce: the protagonists have a secret to keep, but false amonstaches fall off, cupboard doors won't stay shut, lavatories won't flush, careless words are dropped, and hit by bit secrets trickle out, respectability dribbles away.

Jue Orion's *Loot* (Radio 3, Sunday) is a classic example of the form, with its complex machinations involving stolen money, an embalmed corpse with loose-fitting artificial eyes, a bank robber who is constitutionally incapable of lying, and a thinly disguised policeman. Orion's innovation is that the parties with the secret to keep are thorough-going criminals rather than put-upon bourgeois; the audience is invited to sympathise with Hal and Dennis's straightforward criminality rather than with the cringing Catholic respectability of Hal's father, or the state-sponsored viciousness of Inspector Truscott.

Lindsay Posner's production, broadcast to mark the 30th anniversary of Orion's death, was a remarkably effective piece of farce - the swift pace and comic impact suggesting that radio need not be afraid of visual humour, only of humour that's been insufficiently visualised. And the fine performances, particularly Debra Gillett as the briskly ef-

ficient serial murderer Nurse McMahon and Timothy Spall as Truscott, emphasised Orion's individual ear for language - the deliberately Wildean paradoxes (why won't Hal attend his mother's funeral? "It would upset me" - "That is what funerals are meant to do"), the cadences of rigidly pious grief, the occasional obtrusive adjective (Hal describes his partner as "a very *luscious* type of lad"), the baroque banality of sexual fantasy (Hal's list of the various sizes and nationalities of the "birds" in the perfect brothel).

All in all, *Loot* emerged as an engagingly watertight piece of comic craftsmanship. It didn't come across as a critique of society, even as possessing a consistent moral viewpoint, and in another 30 years, when the Swinging Sixties have become as irrelevant as the Naughty Nineties or the Jazz Age, one suspects it will look pretty archaic. But, for the moment, it's looking pretty enough.

More leakage in the first programme of *Not Just a Pretty Face* (Radio 4, Thursday), a new series about the Miss America pageant: this time, the way that childhood leaks into our adult lives, how we fail to contain pain. Jean Snedegar told the story of Marilyn Van Derbur, Miss America 1958, who went on to become one of America's most highly regarded public speakers. But, as always, the American dream has its dark underbelly: in this case, the revelation that Marilyn had been raped by her father regularly from the age of five.

This is a powerful piece of irony but, in the end, that single irony was all the programme had to offer. Marilyn's account of her traumas had been rehearsed to blank perfection. Whether this was a symptom of America's culture of self-revelation, or a technique for coping with the awfulness of her life, the effect was to reduce her story to a trivially shocking anecdote.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW DAVID BENEDICT



THE EXHIBITION Sensation

The RA's hang of Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection includes Rachel Whiteread's *Ghost*, plus works by (no surprise) Damien Hirst, Richard Patterson (above), and Marcus Harvey's *Myra*, a giant reproduction of the police mugshot of Hindley composed of child's handprints, which has been temporarily removed after damage by visitors. Royal Academy, London W1 (0171-439 7438) until 28 Dec.

Tom Lubbock shook his head at empty provocation: "The works acquire an aspect of stupidity. All they can do is point. They stand wide-eyed before their perception that the world is full of threatening anxieties." "The uneven quality of his collection is cruelly exposed... the installation does this art on favours," asserted the *Telegraph*. "A welcome sign that the RA has belatedly decided to atone for its disgraceful, antiquated intolerance in the past," cheered *The Times*. "The tide of filth... predictable, distasteful offerings of the new establishment," expostulated the *Mail*. "Saatchi's assemblage of freaks, frauds and feeble failures makes the same man sick," snarled the *Standard*. "No one is being forced to see these works. But for those with an interest in British art over the past decade, 'Sensation' is essential viewing," approved *The Guardian*.

Scandal or no, apart from good work by Marc Quinn, Rachel Whiteread, and Tracey Emin, the rest is all going and no dinner.

THE FILM Career Girls

The first film written and directed by Mike Leigh since his international success *Secrets and Lies* stars Katrin Cartlidge and Lynda Steadman as two present-day businesswomen who, in flashback, remember their seamy student days almost a decade ago. With Mark Benton, Kate Byers, Andy Serkis and Joe Tucker. Cent 15, 89 mins, on selected release nationwide.

Adam Mars-Jones saw flaws: "acting exercises not acts of insights" but "Leigh has yet to make a film without winning moments." "Not vintage Leigh, but even his worst is better than most British filmmakers' best... Precise, mischievous, almost forensic," declared the *FT*. "By the end of this wayward yet touching film, Leigh's caricatures have become living people," admired *The Times*. "Piquantly formed... There's truth here; affection too and a load of humour," smiled the *Standard*. "A caricaturist who loves his characters, and who can make us love them too," gloried *The Guardian*. "Leigh's improvisation style triumphed in *Secrets and Lies*, but backfires here," sniffed *The Mirror*. "Leigh is at a loss to develop this situation... This thin, disappointing film," winced *Time Out*. "It all seems a bit 'So what!'" shrugged *The Express*.

Closer in style and spirit to Leigh's earlier films than the slightly atypical *Secrets and Lies*.

THE PLAY Othello

David Harewood becomes the first black actor at the National to play the title role in Shakespeare's tragedy of jealousy and hate. Anthony Ward designs and Sam Mendes directs a small-scale production set around the 1930s with Simo Russell Beale as Iago, Claire Skinner as Desdemona and Colin Tierney as Cassio. In rep. the Cottesloe, National Theatre, London SE1 (0171-928 2252)

Paul Taylor had misgivings but enjoyed a staging of "lovely economy" crowned by "Russell Beale's extraordinary, compelling Iago." "Harewood has grandeur, humour, arduous, anguish and his nobility of voice and physique form an ideal contrast to Beale's gnarled ugliness," applauded the *FT*. "Clear, direct, full of closely observed detail... [Harewood's] anger is, however, awesome, his distress harrowing," revelled the *Telegraph*. "Mendes's thrilling production... Psychological immersion is further reinforced by Paul Pyant's lighting," gulped *The Times*. "A first-rate *Othello* to David Harewood... Mendes, like Trevor Nunn before him, strengthens the tragedy by allowing it to grow out of an accumulation of domestic detail," announced *The Guardian*. "Should be reitiled Iago... Too mawkish, too long and badly lit," frowned the *Mail*.

Undeniably compelling, but heavily indebted to Nunn's pulse-quickenning 1989 production. Warning: Don't sit on the sides or you'll miss half the play.

A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

The comedian Arnold Brown had a nice ad lib when people coughed in his Edinburgh Festival shows. "That's a bad cough," he would muse, "what's a good cough?", which led on to a quasi-linguistic debate. There is, they would have us believe, no such thing as a good cough at a classical music concert. This week Radio 3 announced it would be handing out cough sweets, with waxed, silent wrappers, at its live recordings, to silence the coughers.

This is a retrograde step. One of the aesthetic pleasures of attending a classical music concert is coughing between the movements, and glaring at those novice concert-goers who applaud instead. A light clearing of the throat for early music, a heartfelt splutter for the romanticism of Brahms, a rasping hack for the drama of Beethoven.

So why the assault in every national newspaper on the aficionados of concert-going whose coughs emanate from years of musical study? The answer could be that Radio 3 has employed a marketing agency, Amadeus, to raise its profile. The coverage this week was ostensibly about Radio 3's alarm over coughing, but it also served to remind the nation that Radio 3 made live recordings at concerts around the country. A clever piece of classical music spin-doctoring. But I, for one, shall cough on regardless, and impress my neighbours with my musical expertise.



Stars are so expensive these days, but who needs 'em when your local MP is an actor *monique*. Yesterday a new acting discovery was being filmed for a video cameo, playing a newsreader - originally played by astronomer Patrick Moore - in the stage revival of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. Boh Carlton's rock 'n' roll send-up of *The Tempest*. The revival at the New Victoria Theatre, Stoke, will mark the first time an arts minister has not just supported his portfolio, but nabbed a starring role in it.

Mark Fisher, arts minister, is undeterred by the sporadic boos when he made a speech from the stage at the Glasgowny Festival. A method actor, Mr Fisher has apparently been studying ITN's Trevor McDonald, and if he manages to mix McDonald and Moore, he should give a performance worth walking to Stoke for, particularly with such couplets as "Confused? Amazed? Now gentles please take heart For we will now commence the second part."

But there is one snag. Is Mr Fisher, a staunch supporter of trade union rights, a member of Equity? Or will he attract the pickets on opening night?

Who is this arrogant spendthrift referred to in the new volume of memoirs from Sir Denis Forman, former chairman and MD of Granada Television. He describes "the moon-like smile stretching from ear to ear beneath a pair of huge circular spectacles... He reminded me," writes Sir Denis, "of the wartime graffiti character Chad whom one would encounter peering over walls or round corners asking, 'Wot. No Tea?'" The chap with the moonlike smile apparently got from Sir Denis money to subsidise a group of actors for three months to develop "the comedy show to end all comedy shows". After three months he asked for and got more money, but produced nothing. Sir Denis concludes: "As I see him reorganising the BBC today with much the same degree of confidence and much larger sums of money, I hope the end result will be better..."

"John [Birt] had no talent for the management of people, which in the end is the sort of management that matters most."

You may not believe it but... classical concert promoter Raymond Gubbay really was in a taxi from Dublin airport to the city concert hall for a performance of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. The driver was unusually enthusiastic. He knew *The Four Seasons* was being performed, and said he had heard tickets were selling well. "Wonderful stuff," he sighed, "but a pity that Frankie Valli left them."

A BRILLIANT PLAY. EVOCATIVE, FUNNY AND EVEN EROTIC... PROVOCATIVE AND SURPRISING.

the HERBAL BED

THE AWARD-WINNING PLAY ABOUT SHAKESPEARE'S DAUGHTER

BY PETER WHELAN

RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
at the DUCHESS THEATRE

LAST 2 WEEKS MUST CLOSE 4 OCT
BOX OFFICE 0171 494 5075

Royal Festival Hall
Queen Elizabeth Hall
Purcell Room

Beryl Bainbridge, Peter Carey & John Fowles

Wednesday 24 September
Purcell Room, 7.30pm

Fiction International
Box Office 0171 960 4242

Martin Amis, Richard Ford & A.L. Kennedy

Tuesday 30 September
Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

sbc



Never n
job, sor
wa

the “it’s great being a global company, pity about the global travel bill” solution

Ever noticed how a supposedly simple business trip can quickly turn into a crippling spendfest? With a simple solution from IBM, you can actually shrink your communication and administrative costs even at a time when growth is your primary concern.

The bigger you get, the smarter you have to be.

When you do business globally, all those planes, hotels, conference calls and couriers add up faster than a Tokyo taximeter. But for a lot of the everyday stuff, you could easily replace setting-up-a-meeting in Indonesia with setting-up-a-meeting on the Internet. Or on your company’s own intranet, a private secure network. Based on Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino, it lets you share documents, expertise or opinions

anywhere in the world as easily as sharing them in the same room. Even a full-blown presentation, in real time, with selected clients and colleagues alike.

Less globetrotting, more profit.

With IBM, you can take advantage of new tools that facilitate a constant flow of information, sharing of ideas and better, faster decisions. Can you imagine how much more effective, and cost-effective, your company could be? Why not visit us on www.ibminfo.com/nc/uk8 or call us on 0800 675 675 (quoting IND2) for details. We’d be happy to accompany you on your journey to greater profitability.



Solutions for a small planet

شركة الصلح

Never mind the job, some of us want a life

This week a senior record company executive made legal history by winning £9,000 compensation for being dismissed after he rejected a move that would have separated him from his wife and baby daughter. Jack O'Sullivan finds that the decision is the symptom of a growing trend towards employees demanding that their bosses become more family-friendly.

When James Whyte was told that he would have to spend 75 per cent of his working time abroad, he had, in his mind, little choice about the right thing to do. Mr

HOW TO STOP YOUR JOB DAMAGING FAMILY LIFE

1. Agree how to share the load: who picks up the kids from school, etc.
2. Encourage responsibility in your children.
3. Decide your priorities: perhaps that means giving up smoking and going out for dinner so you can have a cleaner.
4. Stop being a perfectionist.
5. Plan your time very carefully.
6. Learn to delegate and to say no.
7. Stop worrying that everything should be done your way.
8. Overcome procrastination.
9. Look after yourself otherwise you are no good to anyone.
10. Be alert to warning signs - drinking, insomnia - and so avoid a crisis.

It is a familiar story, though more usually it is women who make the hard choice. Coming back from maternity leave,

they frequently encounter a rigid work culture that is incompatible with spending time with their children. So they leave.

This week, however, an important battle in the war to balance home and work was won, thanks to Mr Whyte. An industrial tribunal awarded him more than £9,000 for constructive dismissal. The tribunal concluded that EMI had made unreasonable demands upon Mr Whyte, who had already agreed to spend 40 per cent of his time working away from home.

This case, however, is just one sign of the family crises caused by the demands of work, particularly on dual-income couples. "The fundamental problem is sustaining relationships," says Penny De Valk, manager of Work/Life Directions, a consultancy which advises businesses on more family friendly policies.

"Travelling away from home can create terrible pressures on marriages when you might be away for half the time." One partner may be in a job that means going away for weeks at a time at short notice, shattering the carefully constructed system of nannies, baby-sitters and shared responsibilities. When that person returns home, it may be difficult for them to fit in again, because the home-based partner has ceased to rely on them and found other ways to manage.

Mr Whyte's wife, Jo, supported his decision, even though, she said, she was terrified when he came home and said that he would have no salary any more.

"I would rather that he had the job at all," she said, "than be travelling around the world the whole time. I would never



James Whyte with his wife Jo. 'I would never have seen my daughter starting to crawl,' he said

National Pictures

have seen him and neither would Emma."

Concern about such problems is running high, particularly among professional groups, and it is shared equally by men and women, according to Ms De Valk. "Fast cars, fat-cat salaries and flashy penthouses are no longer enough for the young and upwardly mobile. What they really, really want is to get a life."

It is a sentiment James Whyte echoes. "Seeing my daughter grow up was the most important thing in my life and it was essential I didn't miss it," he said after winning this week's case. "Eating in New York may sound exotic but it is not exactly exciting after you've done it for a while, like I have. All you see every day is the office and the hotel, the hotel and the office."

Survey evidence shows that Mr Whyte's feelings reflect his generation. A recent Mori poll found that a quarter of male employees think that family life and career progression is incompatible with their position. One in five of all employees said they would accept a pay cut to have more free time. For all full-time employees the right balance between work and life ranked high-

er than the challenge of their job, the quality of their boss and even the opportunity of promotion, when they were asked about what made them feel committed to their employers.

Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at UMIST, believes that the Whytes' generation is rebelling against what employers expect. "The average family has both partners working," he says, "so people are asking a lot of fundamental questions such as: does this really produce a good quality of life? There are people now with young families who worked very hard in the Eighties. These are the people now whom you would expect to be career-driven. But they saw what happened at the end of the Eighties. They saw people being dumped by downsizing. Now, in the Nineties, they are being asked to work the longest hours in Europe, and they live in a country which has the highest divorce rate in Europe. So they are looking for a different way of life, where their values are respected. The Nineties is becoming like the flower power era of the Sixties, but without the flowers."

The problem for these rebels is that the quality research showing how damaging working lives can be is slight. A study by UMIST to be published in December will show that consistently long working hours are related to poor health. But it is harder to prove that family breakdown and poor productivity are caused by excessive work obligations.

Some employers, however, particularly those in the IT sector, are at last introducing family-friendly policies. Tim Robinson, 34, is married with two children under five. But he is also British chief executive of Silicon Graphics, a worldwide computer company. "I like to finish work between 6 and 6.30 and get home in time to bathe the kids and read them a story before bed," he says. "The company's principle is that each individual has to get the job done, but we like to give them as much flexibility as possible. So in my case I'll often work at home after the kids have gone to bed. People's space is respected, whether that involves making time for them to go windsurfing, playing chess or having a family." Perhaps there will be a job for James Whyte.

Blonde, bouncy, but also ballsy

It's not too difficult to figure out why the boys like Zoe Ball. She's blonde, bouncy and bubbly. *Smash Hits* magazine gave her its Sexiest Chick on the Box award. But none of these are why BBC has decided to stake the future of Radio 1 on her by picking her to co-present its breakfast programme.

A teen magazine poll showed that Zoe is a girl that 86 per cent of its readers can identify with, and broadcasting industry sources say it was that kind of evidence that impressed Radio 1 chiefs when they were looking for a replacement for Mark Radcliffe and his sidekick Marc "Lard" Riley, who are being banished to the afternoon.

"She's the kind of girl our readers can relate to," says Jo Hawkins of *Bliss*. "She comes across as fun. She doesn't seem a bad girl. She's dirty but a good person. She's the kind of girl they think they could enjoy a good gossip with."

This is not the kind of thing that people say about the Spice Girls. They may love them (the current issue of *Smash Hits* comes complete with a "Free! Inflatable Emma Doll!"), but they are hardly the girls next door. Nor do girls feel so sisterly towards the loud-mouthed laddettes from *The Girlie Show*. But Zoe is no laddette and though she has been around long enough to be Original Spice she would never fit as such. "Zoe isn't as tart," said one 14-year-old. If anything Zoe is into girlie power in the lower case rather than in-your-face Girl Power. If her fans can't be her, they would be happy to be her friend.

Fourteen-year-old Georgina Ball from Hertfordshire is no relation but wishes she were. "I'd love to be her for the day. I'd like to have her hair. Her clothes are really extreme. re-



Why do girls identify so much with Zoe Ball, the party girl who has just been chosen to rescue early morning Radio 1? Teen experts tell *Anna Treneman* that it's mainly because she isn't scary.

Photograph: All Action

Cutcheon of EastEnders.

So what does May think is so attractive about Zoe? "It's not Girl Power so much as Girls with Balls. I think our readers enjoy her because she's attractive, she's her own girl, and she been quoted as saying things like that she enjoys sex. She's just a nice person and she hasn't trod on anyone's feet to get to where she is."

He passes me over to his co-worker Deborah Joseph for the female viewpoint. "She doesn't seem like she loves herself and that is really important. Our readers hate anyone who seems arrogant. She's really stylish and she's appealing and feminine too." So would she say that Zoe was a Girl with Balls? "No, that sounds too laddish. I think Nigel and I will have to disagree over that. Just because she's successful doesn't make her ballsy. I think she's feminine and that is part of her appeal."

The fact that Zoe is different things to different people is part of her magic. "It's one of the reasons I think she'll be really successful," says Deborah. "Men really fancy her and women aren't put off by her crotch. She has a lot of appeal for both men and women."

Duncan Gray, executive producer of *The Big Breakfast*, thinks that Zoe is simply a natural. "She is totally unaffected. She has no artifice about her. Women want to be like her and men just fancy the pants off her. She's not like a glamour bitch across the floor at a nightclub. She's approachable, she's fresh and she's natural." And that is what Radio 1 is banking on.

Additional reporting by Preti Taneja.

OfficeStation 97 Multimedia Special

32 or 64Mb RAM
32Mb RAM standard. 64Mb RAM optional. 64Mb RAM optional. 64Mb RAM optional. 64Mb RAM optional.

56k Voice Modem
56k voice modem. 56k voice modem. 56k voice modem. 56k voice modem. 56k voice modem.

24 MAX CD-ROM
24 MAX CD-ROM. 24 MAX CD-ROM. 24 MAX CD-ROM. 24 MAX CD-ROM. 24 MAX CD-ROM.

4.3Gb Hard Disk
4.3Gb Hard Disk. 4.3Gb Hard Disk. 4.3Gb Hard Disk. 4.3Gb Hard Disk. 4.3Gb Hard Disk.

3D Wavetable Sound
3D Wavetable Sound. 3D Wavetable Sound. 3D Wavetable Sound. 3D Wavetable Sound. 3D Wavetable Sound.

64-bit 4Mb Graphics
64-bit 4Mb Graphics. 64-bit 4Mb Graphics. 64-bit 4Mb Graphics. 64-bit 4Mb Graphics. 64-bit 4Mb Graphics.

200+ or 200MMX Processors
200+ or 200MMX Processors. 200+ or 200MMX Processors. 200+ or 200MMX Processors. 200+ or 200MMX Processors. 200+ or 200MMX Processors.

The Best Office 97 Deal

This amazing high specification PC system comes with the latest ATX specifications including 32Mb RAM, 4.3Gb Ultra ATA hard disk, high performance 200+ processor.

The deal also includes 24x CD, 3D Wavetable sound, 56k 4Mb advanced graphics, 5.25 inch cache and full multimedia. The system comes complete with Microsoft Office 97 at a sensational price of just £969 + VAT.

Also available is the 200M system with Intel Pentium 200MHz processor with MMX technology and for the ultimate performance, our top of the range 200M+ system which is in fact faster than our 32Mb 233MHz and 233-2 Pentium II systems due to its amazing 100MHz MMX processor with MMX technology and massive 64Mb RAM. Order any of these systems early and also receive a free 56k voice modem (limited offer).

Microsoft Office 97 Bundle Includes

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, FrontPage, Internet Explorer, Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows 98, Windows 99, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10, Windows 11, Windows 12, Windows 13, Windows 14, Windows 15, Windows 16, Windows 17, Windows 18, Windows 19, Windows 20, Windows 21, Windows 22, Windows 23, Windows 24, Windows 25, Windows 26, Windows 27, Windows 28, Windows 29, Windows 30, Windows 31, Windows 32, Windows 33, Windows 34, Windows 35, Windows 36, Windows 37, Windows 38, Windows 39, Windows 40, Windows 41, Windows 42, Windows 43, Windows 44, Windows 45, Windows 46, Windows 47, Windows 48, Windows 49, Windows 50, Windows 51, Windows 52, Windows 53, Windows 54, Windows 55, Windows 56, Windows 57, Windows 58, Windows 59, Windows 60, Windows 61, Windows 62, Windows 63, Windows 64, Windows 65, Windows 66, Windows 67, Windows 68, Windows 69, Windows 70, Windows 71, Windows 72, Windows 73, Windows 74, Windows 75, Windows 76, Windows 77, Windows 78, Windows 79, Windows 80, Windows 81, Windows 82, Windows 83, Windows 84, Windows 85, Windows 86, Windows 87, Windows 88, Windows 89, Windows 90, Windows 91, Windows 92, Windows 93, Windows 94, Windows 95, Windows 96, Windows 97, Windows 98, Windows 99, Windows 100, Windows 101, Windows 102, Windows 103, Windows 104, Windows 105, Windows 106, Windows 107, Windows 108, Windows 109, Windows 110, Windows 111, Windows 112, Windows 113, Windows 114, Windows 115, Windows 116, Windows 117, Windows 118, Windows 119, Windows 120, Windows 121, Windows 122, Windows 123, Windows 124, Windows 125, Windows 126, Windows 127, Windows 128, Windows 129, Windows 130, Windows 131, Windows 132, Windows 133, Windows 134, Windows 135, Windows 136, Windows 137, Windows 138, Windows 139, Windows 140, Windows 141, Windows 142, Windows 143, Windows 144, Windows 145, Windows 146, Windows 147, Windows 148, Windows 149, Windows 150, Windows 151, Windows 152, Windows 153, Windows 154, Windows 155, Windows 156, Windows 157, Windows 158, Windows 159, Windows 160, Windows 161, Windows 162, Windows 163, Windows 164, Windows 165, Windows 166, Windows 167, Windows 168, Windows 169, Windows 170, Windows 171, Windows 172, Windows 173, Windows 174, Windows 175, Windows 176, Windows 177, Windows 178, Windows 179, Windows 180, Windows 181, Windows 182, Windows 183, Windows 184, Windows 185, Windows 186, Windows 187, Windows 188, Windows 189, Windows 190, Windows 191, Windows 192, Windows 193, Windows 194, Windows 195, Windows 196, Windows 197, Windows 198, Windows 199, Windows 200, Windows 201, Windows 202, Windows 203, Windows 204, Windows 205, Windows 206, Windows 207, Windows 208, Windows 209, Windows 210, Windows 211, Windows 212, Windows 213, Windows 214, Windows 215, Windows 216, Windows 217, Windows 218, Windows 219, Windows 220, Windows 221, Windows 222, Windows 223, Windows 224, Windows 225, Windows 226, Windows 227, Windows 228, Windows 229, Windows 230, Windows 231, Windows 232, Windows 233, Windows 234, Windows 235, Windows 236, Windows 237, Windows 238, Windows 239, Windows 240, Windows 241, Windows 242, Windows 243, Windows 244, Windows 245, Windows 246, Windows 247, Windows 248, Windows 249, Windows 250, Windows 251, Windows 252, Windows 253, Windows 254, Windows 255, Windows 256, Windows 257, Windows 258, Windows 259, Windows 260, Windows 261, Windows 262, Windows 263, Windows 264, Windows 265, Windows 266, Windows 267, Windows 268, Windows 269, Windows 270, Windows 271, Windows 272, Windows 273, Windows 274, Windows 275, Windows 276, Windows 277, Windows 278, Windows 279, Windows 280, Windows 281, Windows 282, Windows 283, Windows 284, Windows 285, Windows 286, Windows 287, Windows 288, Windows 289, Windows 290, Windows 291, Windows 292, Windows 293, Windows 294, Windows 295, Windows 296, Windows 297, Windows 298, Windows 299, Windows 300, Windows 301, Windows 302, Windows 303, Windows 304, Windows 305, Windows 306, Windows 307, Windows 308, Windows 309, Windows 310, Windows 311, Windows 312, Windows 313, Windows 314, Windows 315, Windows 316, Windows 317, Windows 318, Windows 319, Windows 320, Windows 321, Windows 322, Windows 323, Windows 324, Windows 325, Windows 326, Windows 327, Windows 328, Windows 329, Windows 330, Windows 331, Windows 332, Windows 333, Windows 334, Windows 335, Windows 336, Windows 337, Windows 338, Windows 339, Windows 340, Windows 341, Windows 342, Windows 343, Windows 344, Windows 345, Windows 346, Windows 347, Windows 348, Windows 349, Windows 350, Windows 351, Windows 352, Windows 353, Windows 354, Windows 355, Windows 356, Windows 357, Windows 358, Windows 359, Windows 360, Windows 361, Windows 362, Windows 363, Windows 364, Windows 365, Windows 366, Windows 367, Windows 368, Windows 369, Windows 370, Windows 371, Windows 372, Windows 373, Windows 374, Windows 375, Windows 376, Windows 377, Windows 378, Windows 379, Windows 380, Windows 381, Windows 382, Windows 383, Windows 384, Windows 385, Windows 386, Windows 387, Windows 388, Windows 389, Windows 390, Windows 391, Windows 392, Windows 393, Windows 394, Windows 395, Windows 396, Windows 397, Windows 398, Windows 399, Windows 400, Windows 401, Windows 402, Windows 403, Windows 404, Windows 405, Windows 406, Windows 407, Windows 408, Windows 409, Windows 410, Windows 411, Windows 412, Windows 413, Windows 414, Windows 415, Windows 416, Windows 417, Windows 418, Windows 419, Windows 420, Windows 421, Windows 422, Windows 423, Windows 424, Windows 425, Windows 426, Windows 427, Windows 428, Windows 429, Windows 430, Windows 431, Windows 432, Windows 433, Windows 434, Windows 435, Windows 436, Windows 437, Windows 438, Windows 439, Windows 440, Windows 441, Windows 442, Windows 443, Windows 444, Windows 445, Windows 446, Windows 447, Windows 448, Windows 449, Windows 450, Windows 451, Windows 452, Windows 453, Windows 454, Windows 455, Windows 456, Windows 457, Windows 458, Windows 459, Windows 460, Windows 461, Windows 462, Windows 463, Windows 464, Windows 465, Windows 466, Windows 467, Windows 468, Windows 469, Windows 470, Windows 471, Windows 472, Windows 473, Windows 474, Windows 475, Windows 476, Windows 477, Windows 478, Windows 479, Windows 480, Windows 481, Windows 482, Windows 483, Windows 484, Windows 485, Windows 486, Windows 487, Windows 488, Windows 489, Windows 490, Windows 491, Windows 492, Windows 493, Windows 494, Windows 495, Windows 496, Windows 497, Windows 498, Windows 499, Windows 500, Windows 501, Windows 502, Windows 503, Windows 504, Windows 505, Windows 506, Windows 507, Windows 508, Windows 509, Windows 510, Windows 511, Windows 512, Windows 513, Windows 514, Windows 515, Windows 516, Windows 517, Windows 518, Windows 519, Windows 520, Windows 521, Windows 522, Windows 523, Windows 524, Windows 525, Windows 526, Windows 527, Windows 528, Windows 529, Windows 530, Windows 531, Windows 532, Windows 533, Windows 534, Windows 535, Windows 536, Windows 537, Windows 538, Windows 539, Windows 540, Windows 541, Windows 542, Windows 543, Windows 544, Windows 545, Windows 546, Windows 547, Windows 548, Windows 549, Windows 550, Windows 551, Windows 552, Windows 553, Windows 554, Windows 555, Windows 556, Windows 557, Windows 558, Windows 559, Windows 560, Windows 561, Windows 562, Windows 563, Windows 564, Windows 565, Windows 566, Windows 567, Windows 568, Windows 569, Windows 570, Windows 571, Windows 572, Windows 573, Windows 574, Windows 575, Windows 576, Windows 577, Windows 578, Windows 579, Windows 580, Windows 581, Windows 582, Windows 583, Windows 584, Windows 585, Windows 586, Windows 587, Windows 588, Windows 589, Windows 590, Windows 591, Windows 592, Windows 593, Windows 594, Windows 595, Windows 596, Windows 597, Windows 598, Windows 599, Windows 600, Windows 601, Windows 602, Windows 603, Windows 604, Windows 605, Windows 606, Windows 607, Windows 608, Windows 609, Windows 610, Windows 611, Windows 612, Windows 613, Windows 614, Windows 615, Windows 616, Windows 617, Windows 618, Windows 619, Windows 620, Windows 621, Windows 622, Windows 623, Windows 624, Windows 625, Windows 626, Windows 627, Windows 628, Windows 629, Windows 630, Windows 631, Windows 632, Windows 633, Windows 634, Windows 635, Windows 636, Windows 637, Windows 638, Windows 639, Windows 640, Windows 641, Windows 642, Windows 643, Windows 644, Windows 645, Windows 646, Windows 647, Windows 648, Windows 649, Windows 650, Windows 651, Windows 652, Windows 653, Windows 654, Windows 655, Windows 656, Windows 657, Windows 658, Windows 659, Windows 660, Windows 661, Windows 662, Windows 663, Windows 664, Windows 665, Windows 666, Windows 667, Windows 668, Windows 669, Windows 670, Windows 671, Windows 672, Windows 673, Windows 674, Windows 675, Windows 676, Windows 677, Windows 678, Windows 679, Windows 680, Windows 681, Windows 682, Windows 683, Windows 684, Windows 685, Windows 686, Windows 687, Windows 688, Windows 689, Windows 690, Windows 691, Windows 692, Windows 693, Windows 694, Windows 695, Windows 696, Windows 697, Windows 698, Windows 699, Windows 700, Windows 701, Windows 702, Windows 703, Windows 704, Windows 705, Windows 706, Windows 707, Windows 708, Windows 709, Windows 710, Windows 711, Windows 712, Windows 713, Windows 714, Windows 715, Windows 716, Windows 717, Windows 718, Windows 719, Windows 720, Windows 721, Windows 722, Windows 723, Windows 724, Windows 725, Windows 726, Windows 727, Windows 728, Windows 729, Windows 730, Windows 731, Windows 732, Windows 733, Windows 734, Windows 735, Windows 736, Windows 737, Windows 738, Windows 739, Windows 740, Windows 741, Windows 742, Windows 743, Windows 744, Windows 745, Windows 746, Windows 747, Windows 748, Windows 749, Windows 750, Windows 751, Windows 752, Windows 753, Windows 754, Windows 755, Windows 756, Windows 757, Windows 758, Windows 759, Windows 760, Windows 761, Windows 762, Windows 763, Windows 764, Windows 765, Windows 766, Windows 767, Windows 768, Windows 769, Windows 770, Windows 771, Windows 772, Windows 773, Windows 774, Windows 775, Windows 776, Windows 777, Windows 778, Windows 779, Windows 780, Windows 781, Windows 782, Windows 783, Windows 784, Windows 785, Windows 786, Windows 787, Windows 788, Windows 789, Windows 790, Windows 791, Windows 792, Windows 793, Windows 794, Windows 795, Windows 796, Windows 797, Windows 798, Windows 799, Windows 800, Windows 801, Windows 802, Windows 803, Windows 804, Windows 805, Windows 806, Windows 807, Windows 808, Windows 809, Windows 810, Windows 811, Windows 812, Windows 813, Windows 814, Windows 815, Windows 816, Windows 817, Windows 818, Windows 819, Windows 820, Windows 821, Windows 822, Windows 823, Windows 824, Windows 825, Windows 826, Windows 827, Windows 828, Windows 829, Windows 830, Windows 831, Windows 832, Windows 833, Windows 834, Windows 835, Windows 836, Windows 837, Windows 838, Windows 839, Windows 840, Windows 841, Windows 842, Windows 843, Windows 844, Windows 845, Windows 846, Windows 847, Windows 848, Windows 849, Windows 850, Windows 851, Windows 852, Windows 853, Windows 854, Windows 855, Windows 856, Windows 857, Windows 858, Windows 859, Windows 860, Windows 861, Windows 862, Windows 863, Windows 864, Windows 865, Windows 866, Windows 867, Windows 868, Windows 869, Windows 870, Windows 871, Windows 872, Windows 873, Windows 874, Windows 875, Windows 876, Windows 877, Windows 878, Windows 879, Windows 880, Windows 881, Windows 882, Windows 883, Windows 884, Windows 885, Windows 886, Windows 887, Windows 888, Windows 889, Windows 890, Windows 891, Windows 892, Windows 893, Windows 894, Windows 895, Windows 896, Windows 897, Windows 898, Windows 899, Windows 900, Windows 901, Windows 902, Windows 903, Windows 904, Windows 905, Windows 906, Windows 907, Windows 908, Windows 909, Windows 910, Windows 911, Windows 912, Windows 913, Windows 914, Windows 915, Windows 916, Windows 917, Windows 918, Windows 919, Windows 920, Windows 921, Windows 922, Windows 923, Windows 924, Windows 925, Windows 926, Windows 927, Windows 928, Windows 929, Windows 930, Windows 931, Windows 932, Windows 933, Windows 934, Windows 935, Windows 936, Windows 937, Windows 938, Windows 939, Windows 940, Windows 941, Windows 942, Windows 943, Windows 944, Windows 945, Windows 946, Windows 947, Windows 948, Windows 949, Windows 950, Windows 951, Windows 952, Windows 953, Windows 954, Windows 955, Windows 956, Windows 957, Windows 958, Windows 959, Windows 960, Windows 961, Windows 962, Windows 963, Windows 964, Windows 965, Windows 966, Windows 967, Windows 968, Windows 969, Windows 970, Windows 971, Windows 972, Windows 973, Windows 974, Windows 975, Windows 976, Windows 977, Windows 978, Windows 979, Windows 980, Windows 981, Windows 982, Windows 983, Windows 984, Windows 985, Windows 986, Windows 987, Windows 988, Windows 989, Windows 990, Windows 991, Windows 992, Windows 993, Windows 994, Windows 995, Windows 996, Windows 997, Windows 998, Windows 999, Windows 1000, Windows 1001, Windows 1002, Windows 1003, Windows 1004, Windows 1005, Windows 1006, Windows 1007, Windows 1008, Windows 1009, Windows 1010, Windows 1011, Windows 1012, Windows 1013, Windows 1014, Windows 1015, Windows 1016, Windows 1017, Windows 1018, Windows 1019, Windows 1020, Windows 1021, Windows 1022, Windows 1023, Windows 1024, Windows 1025, Windows 1026, Windows 1027, Windows 1028, Windows 1029, Windows 1030, Windows 1031, Windows 1032, Windows 1033, Windows 1034, Windows 1035, Windows 1036, Windows 1037, Windows 1038, Windows 1039, Windows 1040, Windows 1041, Windows 1042, Windows 1043, Windows 1044, Windows 1045, Windows 1046, Windows 1047, Windows 1048, Windows 1049, Windows 1050, Windows 1051, Windows 1052, Windows 1053, Windows 1054, Windows 1055, Windows 1056, Windows 1057, Windows 1058, Windows 1059, Windows 1060, Windows 1061, Windows 1062, Windows 1063, Windows 1064, Windows 1065, Windows 1066, Windows 1067, Windows 1068, Windows 1069, Windows 1070, Windows 1071, Windows 1072, Windows 1073, Windows 1074, Windows 1075, Windows 1076, Windows 1077, Windows 1078, Windows 1079, Windows 1080, Windows 1081, Windows 1082, Windows 1083, Windows 1084, Windows 1085, Windows 1086, Windows 1087, Windows 1088, Windows 1089, Windows 1090, Windows 1091, Windows 1092, Windows 1093, Windows 1094, Windows 1095, Windows 1096, Windows 1097, Windows 1098, Windows 1099, Windows 1100, Windows 1101, Windows 1102, Windows 1103, Windows 1104, Windows 1105, Windows 1106, Windows 1107, Windows 1108, Windows 1109, Windows 1110, Windows 1111, Windows 1112, Windows 1113, Windows 1114, Windows 1115, Windows 1116, Windows 1117, Windows 1118, Windows 1119, Windows 1120, Windows 1121, Windows 1122, Windows 1123, Windows 1124, Windows 1125, Windows 1126, Windows 1127, Windows 1128, Windows 1129, Windows 1130, Windows 1131, Windows 1132, Windows 1133, Windows 1134, Windows 1135, Windows 1136, Windows 1137, Windows 1138, Windows 1139, Windows 1140, Windows 1141, Windows 1142, Windows 1143, Windows 1144, Windows 1145, Windows 1146, Windows 1147, Windows 1148, Windows 1149, Windows 1150, Windows 1151, Windows 1152, Windows 1153, Windows 1154, Windows 1155, Windows 1156, Windows 1157, Windows 1158, Windows 1159, Windows 1160, Windows 1161, Windows 1162, Windows 1163, Windows 1164, Windows 1165, Windows 1166, Windows 1167, Windows 1168, Windows 1169, Windows 1170, Windows 1171, Windows 1172, Windows 1173, Windows 1174, Windows 1175, Windows 1176, Windows 1177, Windows 1178, Windows 1179, Windows 1180, Windows 1181, Windows 1182, Windows 1183, Windows 1184, Windows 1185, Windows 1186, Windows 1187, Windows 1188, Windows 1189, Windows 1190, Windows 1191, Windows 1192, Windows 1193, Windows 1194, Windows 1195, Windows 1196, Windows 1197, Windows 1198, Windows 1199, Windows 1200, Windows 1201, Windows 1202, Windows 1203, Windows 1204, Windows 1205, Windows 1206, Windows 1207, Windows 1208, Windows 1209, Windows 1210, Windows 1211, Windows 1212, Windows 1213, Windows 1214, Windows 1215, Windows 1216, Windows 1217, Windows 1218, Windows 1219, Windows 1220, Windows 1221, Windows 1222, Windows 1223, Windows 1224, Windows 1225, Windows 1226, Windows 1227, Windows 1228, Windows 1229, Windows 1230, Windows 1231, Windows 1232, Windows 1233, Windows 1234, Windows 1235, Windows 1236, Windows 1237, Windows 1238, Windows 1239, Windows 1240, Windows 1241, Windows 1242, Windows 1243, Windows 1244, Windows 1245, Windows 1246, Windows 1247, Windows 1248, Windows 1249, Windows 1250, Windows 1251, Windows 1252, Windows 1253, Windows 1254, Windows 1255, Windows 1256, Windows 1257, Windows 1258, Windows 1259, Windows 1260, Windows 1261, Windows 1262, Windows 1263, Windows 1264, Windows 1265, Windows 1266, Windows 1267, Windows 1268, Windows 1269, Windows 1270, Windows 1271, Windows 1272, Windows 1273, Windows 1274, Windows 1275, Windows 127

The voices of Wales call for Blair the democrat to think again



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171 345 2435

Over the next few days Tony Blair's mettle will be severely tested. His response will tell us a great deal about his political identity. As Labour offers its considered answer to the marginal approval by Welsh voters of the assembly project, we will learn whether Tony Blair is a democrat. Is this a leader prepared to attend one of democracy's great lessons, that the decisions of people are messy, uncertain, not entirely rational but in the last analysis are the best decisions there are?

Last year he lanced a boil inside his party by imposing on it a scheme for Scottish and Welsh referendums. He upstaged Labour opponents of devolution by commanding the democratic high ground, just as he has since won trick after trick from the Tories. The rhetoric is compelling. New Labour, he has been promising, is a party which has to listen to the plural voices of Britain and specifically to give the residents of the national entities within the United Kingdom another chance - after the Tory era - to express a view about self-government. Scottish residents spoke. Their will is settled. Thursday's vote in Wales did not secure such an outcome.

But perhaps Mr Blair's mind-set is that of the man in Westminster who knows what is best, who prefers the smooth and uniform scheme regardless of local diversity?

Scotland and Wales are different, just as the regions of England are hugely diverse. No single scheme can or should be applied. Welsh governance remains in play and it is time to start to think about it once again.

Tony Blair's immediate response was not a good augury, and that of Ron Davies was even more dispiriting. Just because the rules of the game have been followed does not confer legitimacy upon the process - that is the view of a bureaucrat or ideologue, surely not that of a practising politician whose business is inclusion and the mobilisation of maximal agreement. The appropriate response to the expression of opinion by the residents of Wales - and the fact that a fraction of them bothered to turn out is significant - is to think again about the governance of the principality, from top to toe.

Rushed legislation would be a political mistake. It would serve to distract the Blair administration from more pressing concerns and hand the undeserving Tories a weapon and an issue. It would be a signal that this, despite all the New Labour rhetoric, is a government of dogmatists. On May 1 the country voted a switch away from ministers who culled in their inflexibility; is evidence being prepared here that the voters were mistaken? Leg-



islation for a Welsh assembly should proceed on the basis that the present plan does not carry convincing support in the principality, and that a better-adapted and more convincing proposal needs to be developed, and put to the people of Wales again when it has passed through the Commons. A 0.6 per cent majority is inadequate as a mandate for such a significant constitutional change.

The strongest reason for thinking again is that this campaign has been educational. What has been said and thought during the past few weeks gives ready lessons about the future governance of Wales. Two stand out. They have to do with the importance of intra-regional divisions of interest and with the problem of local government.

That the socio-economic personality of North Wales is different from that of the Wales of the valleys is self-evident; that such differences needs to be recognised in politics and administration came over strongly in the campaign. Is Wales really a political unity or are there intermediate arrangements that better recognise the huge distance, real and figurative, between Cwmbran and Colwyn Bay?

What also became evident is the suspicion bordering on contempt in which much of Welsh local government is held

by residents. Yes, the new "unitary" councils have not yet properly bedded down and a lot of the antagonism has to do with the failings of the previous two-tier arrangement. But problems go deeper - and are located nearer to Tony Blair than he might care to realise. Too much of Wales is run by a party which gives every sign of being an oligarchy. Jokes about the Taffia are built round a kernel of truth. The prospect of a Welsh assembly that would be found unacceptable by large numbers and so it should. But unless and until the Labour Party itself is reformed, the prospects for democratic renewal in Wales - at any level - are slim.

In Wales, like Magnus Magnusson, Labour having started must now finish. The problems which inspired the debate about a national assembly remain to be tackled, among them the accountability of the Welsh appointed bodies and the Welsh Office. There is a good case for representation of the people at a level above that of the locality, but below that of Westminster. But any new scheme for Welsh governance needs to be set before the voters of Wales for their approval. On the basis of this week's vote, a precondition for their assent may be radical change within the Labour Party itself.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welsh referendum

Sir: The Welsh referendum was intended by the Government to build on the apparent enthusiasm for devolution shown in the results of the May general election; in fact the deeply underwhelming "Yes" result has undermined this enthusiasm.

Just 25 per cent of the Welsh electorate voted in favour of the principle of a Welsh assembly, with the other 75 per cent either voting against or abstaining. By contrast, at the general election, 57 per cent of the Welsh electorate voted Labour, Liberal Democrat or Welsh Nationalist, with these parties taking nearly four out of five of the votes actually cast. All these parties were committed, as a central part of their respective manifestos, to some form of devolution.

Given that little more than one in three of the Welsh electorate were prepared to go out and vote, the referendum result hardly represents a convincing mandate to push the proposals through the two Houses of Parliament. At worst for the Government, the results suggest that there has been a total collapse in support for devolution and that a longer campaign might have led to the proposal being rejected altogether. M C FITZPATRICK
Head of Economics
Chancery Walk
London WC2

Families still count

Sir: Polly Toynbee's courageous confession ("Why my blow for women was had for the poor", 18 September) that tax reforms she and others (myself included) supported in the 1970s and 1980s have had a deleterious effect on families is to be welcomed.

But why does she go on to argue for the abolition of the married couple's allowance which in its migratory form is the last remaining, if faint, fiscal signal emitted from the Treasury that families and marriage still count? Over two decades, Tory tax law targeted families and marriage and thus helped contribute to social atomisation. Further fiscal engineering undermining families and marriage is the last thing we need. DENIS MACSHANE MP
(Lab, Rotherham)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: Polly Toynbee is right to argue against importing the earned income tax credit scheme for low income families from the United States, and in favour of substantially increasing child benefit. But the rest of her package - going back to joint taxation of couples and taxing child benefit - would be moves in the wrong direction.

To apply joint taxation to married couples only would be discriminatory. But the idea of the Inland Revenue administering a cohabitation rule is a nightmare. It turns into an administrative absurdity once the

increasing fluidity of relationships is taken into account.

To point out that mean-tested benefits are assessed on a family basis does not justify a return to joint taxation; instead, we should be exploring how to move towards individually-based benefits, as the European Commission has recently suggested. If we are worried about the widening gap between rich and poor, there are plenty of ways to increase redistribution from the better-off - whether married, cohabiting or single - without abandoning independent taxation.

It would be a mistake to tax child benefit: it would be rather odd to get only families with children to pay for an increase in the one benefit specifically for families with children. In addition, under joint taxation, many husbands could be paying tax on the child benefit received by their wives. The resentment this caused could result in calls for the reintroduction of child tax allowances, paid via the main earner - usually the man. And then we really would be back where we started. FRANK BENNETT
Oxford

Community funds

Sir: May I echo and support the proposal by Michael Brophy, chief executive of the Charities Aid Foundation (Letters, 17 September), that each town or county might have a "People's Trust" to mark the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

May I also point out that a number of such trusts already exist, in the form of local community foundations, whose objectives are to harness funds from both individuals and companies for charitable projects. In the case of Wiltshire Community Foundation, which is my local county organisation dedicated (*inter alia*) to supporting community care of the frail elderly, minority groups, disadvantaged young people and to tackling isolation, a permanent endowment fund is being built to provide an income source in perpetuity for the county. JENNIE FRANCIS
Office Manager
Wiltshire Community Foundation
Devizes, Wiltshire

Virgin rail fares

Sir: We normally respect Randeep Ramesh's reporting of the transport industry but on this occasion (report, 18 September) he's gone off the rails. The fare changes he reports on took place four months ago, soon after we'd taken over the franchise, not this week.

We reduced fares for people who booked by 3pm the day before to encourage advance bookings so we could guarantee them a seat. We have just completed taking on and training 300 people in Edinburgh to enable them to do so for the price of a local call (telephone 0345 222 333). BRIAN BARRETT
Chief Executive, Virgin Rail
London W8

Targets for recycling

Sir: Polly Toynbee ("The battle of incinerators vs recyclers", 15 September) may feel the Government's target of recycling 25 per cent of household waste by 2000 is too low. However, it is worth noting that if the UK were to reach a recycling level of 40 per cent over the next 10-20 years, comparable with the best results ever achieved, this would still leave 60 per cent of our waste to be dealt with, amounting to 12 million tonnes per annum.

Society is clearly implicated in this: waste is a symptom of a need to change our ways. There must be an increase in reuse and recycling. However, it will take a generation for the impact of any change in attitude to come through and the problems of waste are with us now.

Modern, clean incinerators have a part to play in a balanced approach to waste management. Incineration reduces the volume of waste going to landfill sites by 80 per cent; more if the bottom ash produced is used in construction. It can also provide power generation and heating for local homes and businesses. JOHN ECKINS
Chairman Elect
Waste Management Board
The Institution of Civil Engineers
London SW1

Sir: Polly Toynbee says the Government must get the waste industry together with the boroughs to break the logjam in increasing the amount of waste that we recycle. I can tell her that this is already happening. The boroughs are joining with the waste industry to create a new environmental body called London Waste Action where they will work together with environmental interest groups, the Government and the people of London to ensure that the entire waste management system works to the benefit of our environment. The operators of landfill sites will be subscribing and will receive a tax credit for doing so. We will involve all those who produce and distribute the packaging that fills our waste bins as well as those who make a business by reusing it and recycling it.

The boroughs have already commenced a three-year investment programme to gear up their collection systems. This is why Polly Toynbee and other Londoners have received containers from their council. Ordinary Londoners are central to the programme because it is they who must separate their waste, purchase goods made from recycled materials, use less packaging and reuse it where they can. COLIN ROBERTS
Chief Executive
London Waste Action
London SW1

The most prevalent quality of the show is lack of emotional maturity. The works over and over again reveal an obsession with the egoistic self. Most artists in the show can find no will to go beyond this seductive state. And, being stunted in their own development, they

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Marcus Harvey's painting of Myra Hindley at the 'Sensation' exhibition Reuters

Art and iconoclasm

Sir: The culture in art to shock and disturb by undermining existing values has become so prevalent that it is endangering the fuel that feeds it ("Splashing out: the day art went too far", 19 September). Where will this movement go when all its references are used up, whether they be Myra Hindley, Jesus Christ, the Royal Family or a sheep?

Iconoclasm is all very well but it depends on someone else creating the icon first. We need to court true originality again so that we can build some new and heartening principles into our culture - otherwise we may not leave anything for future generations to destroy. DAVID GIBBS
London SW4

Sir: Having just seen the "Sensation" exhibition at the Royal Academy I have emerged feeling manipulated and undernourished.

The most prevalent quality of the show is lack of emotional maturity. The works over and over again reveal an obsession with the egoistic self. Most artists in the show can find no will to go beyond this seductive state. And, being stunted in their own development, they

can find no means to open the door to genuine inspiration and innovative ideas. CORAL GUEST
Rushden,
Northamptonshire

Diet for a healthy life

Sir: According to a report by the Wellman Clinic in London, men who eat red meat are healthier, fitter and less prone to exhaustion than those who don't ("Veggies who can't resist the pleasures of the flesh", 15 September). I only wish they'd interviewed me!

I am 38 and have been a vegan (no meat, fish or dairy products) for the last eight years; I have eaten no meat at all for 10 years. I run regularly (10km time: 34 minutes), swim regularly (5km front crawl time: 1 hour, 40 minutes) and often cycle to work (a 16-mile round trip that takes me 50 minutes in total). I also do karate training twice a week, plus some general weight training. My work is manual, involving lots of lifting, fetching and carrying - and no sitting down. After all that, I still find time and energy for regular nights out.

The pallid, exhaustion-prone vegetarian is as much a stereotype as the obese, cholesterol-stuffed meat-eater. There are junk-foodies and couch potatoes on both sides. With either diet - as with much else in life - you only get out what you put in. KEVIN MARMAN
Herne Bay, Kent

Cycle network

Sir: Your correspondence (Letters, 13 and 15 September) on cyclists driving to the Forest of Dean, in order to enjoy the excellent trails provided by the Forestry Commission, demonstrates just how overdue the National Cycle Network is. Its routes will enable your correspondents to cycle by safe and attractive ways from the centre of Bristol, Newport, Gloucester and other nearby settlements, hopefully enjoying the journey itself so much that some will not even reach the Forest!

In the meantime, the very popularity of the Dean's cycling routes gives us confidence that there is a large suppressed demand for cycling which will be realised as we resolve the present intolerable conflict with traffic. JOHN GRIMSHAW
Director, Sustrans
Bristol

Theory in chaos

Sir: You report (19 September) storms in the Bay of Biscay leading to the flutter of butterfly wings in eastern England. Is this an example of reverse Chaos Theory? ALASTAIR NEWTON
King's Lynn, Norfolk

Design referendum

Sir: Re: *Independent* redesign. Yes, yes. ROSIE UFFINDELL
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire

First of all, thank you. Thank you to everyone who has written in about the new paper - to the enthusiasts, who seem to be a hefty majority, but also to the complainants too. I have been touched by the trouble people have taken to go through the paper carefully, often raising detailed questions of typography, design and editorial philosophy when they write. You may be, at times, a difficult bunch, but you must also be one of the most knowledgeable and opinionated newspaper readerships in the world.

I simply can't write a personal letter back to everyone who has commented, but there is a couple of specific points which need to be raised.

First, readability. This confuses me. Quite a lot of you find the paper easier to read. But a minority are having trouble. They ask, for instance, why the typeface of the main stories is smaller. It isn't! It was 8.75-point Dutch Roman before, and is still. But we have increased the "leading" - the gap between lines - slightly, to 10 points. Perhaps that, with the greater use of white space, is causing more glare for some readers, while others, with different eyesight, find it easier. The problem could be corrected by closing up the leading, but that would make the text look a bit more cramped, and probably annoy others. Anyway, all comments are welcome.

Second, the index on page two. That has replaced the "significant shorts" column, though the "people" and "briefing" material is still there. Some think the index essential, others would like the shorts returned. What do you think?

Finally, many of you have asked: where has the design come from? Is there another, overseas paper which is the model? The answer is no, though I have been slouching around international newspapers for many months. There are plenty of better-looking papers elsewhere, from Scandinavia to America. I particularly like the looks of, for instance, *La Vanguardia* of Barcelona (a truly beautiful-looking paper), *Die Woche* from Germany, *Brazil's O Globo*, and *Libération* in France - though we'd never get away with the wild, Gallic enthusiasm of their typefaces.

Hints and suggestions have come from these and other papers. But the new *Independent* looks nothing like any of them. The brief story is that it was created by a small huddle of us, including a London-based designer, Vince Frost, over many long evenings of experiment and argument. There was a lot of scribbling on large bits of paper, tearing up and Sellotaping back together again. Then, encouraged by the owners, we tested it with groups of readers, and refined our designs. I sat listening to some say, "it's gorgeous, don't lose your nerve", and others who said, "it's terrible, what are you up to?", and tried to make sense of who was saying what, and why. As time went on, more and more colleagues came into the loop, added ideas and subtracted others. Colleagues from other papers periodically telephoned to congratulate us on our bold decision to go tabloid and down-market, or to print on green paper, or to become a glossy magazine. We thanked them politely and kept our counsel.

Then, finally, earlier this month we printed the new newspaper as for "live" on a couple of long nights, after the real paper had been sent to the print sites, and took the results - new, printed papers with that morning's news - to panels of general commuters in different parts of the country, who munched their way through Danish pastries and told us what they thought. Then we took a deep breath and pressed the "go" button. Here, we are all baggy-eyed with exhaustion. But it was worth it.

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

One night I shall put myself to sleep by counting how many enthusiasts for Labour's 1980s' madness have become disciples of the 1990s' super-sanity. We are governed by the ideologically footloose - Lord Hattersley, Labour peer

This is another slippage of sterling from the world's most solid currency into tinpot trash - Mark Almond, lecturer in modern history at Oriel College, Oxford, on the new lightweight 50p coin

Any prime minister serves the country to the very limit of his or her capabilities. Yet we seem to expect that work to be done on the cheap - Lord Hanson, business tycoon, deploring Tony Blair's rejection of a pay increase

The point about theatre is that you go in as individuals and end up as a community. If you want to dissent from that you can't do it invisibly. In a cinema, unless you go and assault the projectionist, whatever you do is not going to affect the performance - Richard Eyre, outgoing artistic director of the National Theatre

A total disgrace, a ghastly assembly of work at the level of student shows but twice as offensive - Ralph Brown, senior Royal Academician, on the RA exhibition 'Sensation'

You can spend your whole life trying to be popular but, at the end of the day, the size of the crowd at your funeral will be largely dictated by the weather - Frank Skinner, comedian

You're fan
our name

have to
the organi

23/COMMENT

again

You're famous aren't you? Er, what was your name again?



TREVOR PHILLIPS
ON THE ART
OF FAME

In this week of new beginnings, it may be time for an ur-text. Of course you know what an ur-text is – the original, unexpurgated text, musical or literary, showing the author's or composer's work without modification, allowing us to translate or interpret all further texts. Everything is built on that foundation.

If this column has an ur-text, it is a profound meditation on the nature of identity, in the work of a little-known group of philosophers who sum it up thus:

Who do you think you are?
Some kind of superstar?

The questions which week after week we worry about are bound by this couplet, the work of Mel B, Mel C, Geri, Victoria and Emma. Weeks of debate over the referendum; millions of words about the British nation after the death of the Princess; the unceasing search of the Blair Project and its acolytes for the New Britain; the backbreaking research of dozens of university departments – all condensed into 10 words masquerading as a pop song. It is awesome.

This week I found out that the second line of the rhyme has its own special meaning. It is in effect, no less than a critical meditation on the nature of celebrity. This is something I know about. I am myself at best a nanocelebrity – my recognition factor being somewhat smaller than a weasel's wedding tackle. As Blackadder would put it, I believe that there are fewer than two dozen people in this country who are so famous that they genuinely need no introduction. The test is whether nine out of ten of us can both recognise them and name them. You would probably recognise the Queen, but you'd miss Prince Edward in a crowd; you'd know Cilla; but, I promise you, you'd never know that Liam Gallagher wasn't his brother. Tony Blair, yes, but Michael Meacher? No way. There is an exquisite humiliation for anyone who imagines that appearing on TV makes you famous.



PHOTOMONTAGE JONATHAN ANSTEE

Having been on the screens of the capital for more than a decade, on average once a week, I have learnt this the hard way. A few months ago, whilst filming on the streets of Hackney, I was approached by a young man who said how much he admired my programme. I promise that the pride I felt was not personal, but on behalf of the hard-working creative team that produces the show. As he turned to go he threw in one last query: "Oh, by the way, is your dad still reading the news, then?" I haven't yet figured out a way to tell Trevor Macdonald that he's acquired a new relative.

It may be that the young man was taught in Hackney's schools, and never got round to the lesson where they teach the distinction between a forename and a surname; but even so, I think it's a bit hard on poor old Trevor to suggest that he might already be reaching for the bus pass.

Not that he'd mind, I suppose.

I am myself a nanocelebrity, my recognition factor being smaller than a weasel's wedding tackle

Oddly enough, the truly famous can be unusually modest; they remember your name, for example. As I examined some elephant dung at the Royal Academy's *Sensation* exhibition this week, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned to be greeted by The Most Famous Living Author In The World (Sorry Jeffrey; I could arrange the fatwa; if you really fancied it, but it would make running for Mayor of London very, very hard – security would probably soak up next year's ad-

vance. It's Salman Rushdie I'm talking about.)

I hadn't seen Salman for some years, except across a crowded room, so I would not have expected him to remember me (shouldn't think he watches television a lot); more important, I wouldn't expect him to remember my wife's name. But he did. There is a class of hugely well-organised Americans who have your family history down in their address books, so that no business conversation passes without an enquiry about your younger daughter ("she must be nine now, right?") leaving you bewildered at their powers of recall. But he didn't have an *aide-memoire*, so it must have been genuine. Anyway, TMEAFINTW was charming itself. So was The Great Interrogator, whom I had not met properly before, and to whom I'd never been properly introduced, yet who greeted me as an equal.

Yet 10 minutes later I bounded up

to a lesser-known scribbler who has from time to time been paid by TV companies, and whom I had met briefly on a couple of occasions. I have never spoken more than a dozen words to the man. Yet he asked me if I was still doing the TV programme that he and I had hosted together, on a channel that I have never been near, and then started to talk about the times we worked together. Clearly, the old adage that we black people all look alike still holds for some. The chap has probably met only one black person in his life, and now imagines that we are all the same fellow. He may suffer from the same disease that afflicted the porters at my university. The son of Archbishop Tutu also happens to be called Trevor. Being what he is, and what I am, we came to know each other well, since we would regularly get each other's mail. Not that the envelopes said "Please give me to any black male answering to the name o Trevor"; they would clearly announce themselves as "Phillips" or "Tutu". Somehow it all seemed too much.

But the people I feel really sorry for are those whose fame has become an adjunct to someone or something else's. The name Lorraine Chase will probably mean little to most of us; but "the Luton Airport Girl" places her instantly. And imagine being known only as Margaret Thatcher's husband. It's not worth it really, is it? That is why, to return to our ur-text, the Spice Girls have it right.

*You're swelling out in the wrong direction
You got the bug, superstar you've been bitten
Your trumpet's blowing for far too long...*

Andy Warhol promised fame for 15 minutes to everyone. Oprah, Ricki Lake, Esther, and, God help us, Vanessa are doing their best to deliver. But be warned. You can't be too careful with celebrity. Embrace it gingerly if you embrace it at all. It's not all that it seems.

A feisty old woman on the ropes

DAVID AARONOVITCH
ON BELL-RINGING



Where do you stand on the cause célèbre of the week, the Midge Mather case? Are you for her, or against her? Or perhaps, before you decide, you would like a little background briefing. Very well then.

At the heart of the small Wiltshire village of Compton Bassett stands the 12th century church of St Swithin's. For eight centuries, through pestilence and civil war, this place of worship has remained inviolate and undamaged.

Warwick Kingmaker spared it. Cromwell passed it by. Led Zeppelin held no free rock concerts in adjoining fields. And then this year, a Mrs Midge Mather (I imagine that her first name must be a diminutive; few are christened after unpleasant insects, except perhaps the children of enthusiastic entomologists), aged 65, of neighbouring Magnolia Cottage, upped and bashed in the 15th century porch door using crow-bar, pick-axe and back-saw. Once inside, the formidable pensioner cut all the bell-ropes.

These, M'lud, are the facts, uncontested by Mrs Mather or the authorities, and which led to her conviction on Thursday for causing criminal damage. Nevertheless, given a two year conditional discharge by Chippenham magistrates, Mrs Mather complained so volubly about the outcome of her trial that she had to be taken down to the cells for 10 minutes to re-compose herself.

Mrs Mather, you see, feels more than a little sorry for herself. She is a pensioner, whose peaceful life had been destroyed by the persistent visits of foreign campanologists (often coming all the way from Oxford) to ring the bells of St Swithin's. Driven to distraction by the noise, she had warned the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, the Ven John Smith – in a 55 minute phone call – of her settled intention to cut the bell-ropes. When (as

the hour approached) he terminated the conversation with the words, "You must do what you must do", Mrs Mather told the court that she interpreted him as giving his permission that she borrow a crowbar and break into the church.

It may well be that the English aversion to extraneous noise of any kind has emboldened the rope-slicer of Magnolia Cottage to believe that she may enjoy wide support. In addition we are – as a nation – famously on the side of elderly, feisty ladies who take on officialdom and win. Many old women seem to plan their lives on the basis that society will tolerate the most extraordinary anti-social behaviour on their parts.

I think that Mrs Mather has miscalculated. Let us take noise first. If most of us were to make an instant calculation about whether we would rather live next to a Rastafarian music collective or to Mrs Mather, we might not all choose the latter. When I was young my poor mother was persecuted by next door neighbours, who complained about my infant brother bouncing in his cot, some 50 feet and two rooms away from the party wall.

Second, it is unnecessary to consult the photographs accompanying press reports of Mrs Mather's court appearance to know she is formidable. A face of obstinate strength is framed by a single string of pearls below, and a black hat with funny netting above. The arms are folded, the lips pursed. Mrs Mather may be a pensioner, but she is as strong as an ox. Midge is not a woman who puts up with things. And therefore – as a thing myself – it is not in my interests to put up with Midge.

All we have to do is define this spirituality and write it into the organisations that have lost their souls



ANDREW BROWN
ON SPIRITS
OF THE AGE

We shouldn't need reminding, after the last fortnight, that modern spirituality takes strange forms; but it's still a little shocking to find a sacred motorbike. This is the story: a young man is dying of cancer in an NHS hospital in Yorkshire. His pain is controlled, but there is nothing that can be done for him, as he has known for some time; yet still he grows agitated, without being able to explain why.

Tom Keightley, one of the nurses, who later told the story, decided to approach the question indirectly. He talked to the boy about what really mattered in his life, and it turned out that what he loved most of all were big, fast bikes. His room was papered with pictures of them, and he had even bought one before falling ill. So

chinese, brought it, somehow, into the boy's room and when he died, four days later, he died with one arm across the saddle of his beloved bike. As far as we can know, he was happy.

The story was told at a conference last week on spirituality within the NHS, chaired by Rabbi Julia Neuberger, which was noteworthy for the mixture of confusion about spirituality with the certainty that spirits and souls exist. If caring for people's souls can lead nurses to drag dirty big motorbikes into a hospital ward, there is clearly something to be cared for just as clearly it is not a soul to be understood in traditional Christian terms, or those of any other religion. Neither was it a New Age thing. There was no particular suggestion that the motorcycle-riding part of the patient would survive his death, or be gifted with supernatural powers, only a recognition that an essential part of the patient rode bikes. To treat him, you would have to take that into account.

A fair number of chaplains turned up to the conference, but most of those present were medical professionals. None, so far as I could tell, were the fundamentalist, miracle-believing type of Christian surprisingly common among doctors. But all of these hard-headed people knew that souls, or spirits, are as difficult to be rid of as air, though also as hard to pin down. The prevailing spirit of confident confusion was nicely

captured by Julia Neuberger when she said: "I don't know how you define what we're talking about but we sort of know that we can feel it."

"If you can off the ineffable, it's not ineffable any more," said Stephen Pattison, an Open University lecturer in Social Welfare who also has an MBA and a dog collar as an Anglican priest. Spirituality he saw as something not necessarily benevolent: "For a lot of people

'If you can off the ineffable, it's not ineffable any more,' said a delegate at the conference

in the NHS at the moment, the organisation is something like a concentration camp." For him, it was quite clearly a question of collective morale, or spirit. The concepts permeate our language. But, he said, the original Christian understanding of spirits was that they were tightly bound to particular places and people. They were not immortal, nor capable of life independently of the physical things which nourished them. The book of Revelation, for instance, is addressed to the "angels" of four churches, not to their members. At least one of the

addresses, the angel of the church in Smyrna, no longer exists, he said, since the church there no longer does. If this seems exotic and barbarous, ask yourself who or what exactly is being addressed when a politician talks to the people. He is not simply talking to an aggregate of oases in the phone book, which is why it is possible to get a comic effect by pretending that he is.

So the moral of the meeting may seem simple: all we have to do is find some of this ineffable spirituality, draw up a definition of it that is sufficiently broad, and then write that into the NHS, the BBC and all the other organisations that now seem to have lost their souls. Some such programme was proposed by Pamela

Reed, an American academic who produced research to show that religious practice is good for your health. Those who pray live longer; those who wrestle with God recover better from depression. But what prayers? Which God? These are notoriously questions with answers that are not just incompatible, but mutually incomprehensible too.

This is true even with religions: it is difficult to imagine a belief system that would even be spacious enough to fit in all the varieties of Judaism, from the ultra-orthodox to Julia Neuberger. The religious imag-

ination seems to be like language: we are all born with the ability to learn language in general, but we grow up learning particular languages and these are mutually exclusive. A Martian might conclude from this that all languages are false or nonsensical, just as a rabid atheist can conclude from the incompatibility of religious beliefs that they are all false. But the Martian misunderstands the uses of language, and the atheist the uses of religion. None the less, there is no universally applicable spirituality, any more than there is a universal language. For a Muslim, spirituality involves the annihilation of the self in God; for an Orthodox Jew it is the use of ritual to sanctify every detail of ordinary life.

Spirituality resembles language in another respect: it shapes its users. There is no standard human nature so to which different languages or religions can be draped, as on a mannequin. The ideas we use help shape the world we see; and it, in turn, shapes us. This implies that spiritualities die, as languages do. We cannot enter into the thought-world of the Vikings, who believed no boat could be successfully launched except over the body of a slave. Nor can we believe in the Roman gods, though Stephen Pattison suggested that strategic planning in a modern corporation served much the same purpose of anxiety reduction as the Roman habit of slaughter-

ing birds in times of crisis to examine their entrails for hints about the future – and was about as reliable. We cannot even, most of us, get back to Christianity.

For Roger Scruton, who also spoke at the conference, the death of the old spiritualities is probably irreversible, at least among intellectuals. "Most people can't think, and shouldn't try to; for them it is still possible to re-enchant the world." But thoughtful people, he said, would have to try to live with a world from which science and Darwin had drained the possibility of lasting significance. They might pray and fast, and this would be good for them. It would help them face their own deaths, but it would not return to them the hope of eternity.

However bleak, this was not a vision of a world without soul. And if spiritualities can die, like languages, they can also emerge, as languages do. Something of the sort is clearly happening now, with those spontaneous shrines beneath the trees in Kensington Gardens.

No one has yet written a grammar of this new thing which could be translated into existing concepts. But perhaps that is because we all speak in fragments of the new language without codifying it. If we can understand the human significance of a motorcycle in a cancer ward, then a new language really is beginning to coalesce.

We conduct patient research into



Patient Care

Will you support us?

The Royal College of Physicians sets the standards and helps control the quality of medical practice in hospitals throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Research plays a vital part in this work. Not laboratory research – but research that evaluates the most effective ways of caring for patients.

- ☐ Such as how to maximize the quality of life for those sick with cancer.
- ☐ Or how best to provide sensitive long term care for older people.
- ☐ Or what guidelines should be laid down for the best management of asthma.

Funding this never ending programme is a real problem. We rely on the donations, gifts and legacies of generous supporters to augment our independent income. Only in this way can we continue to seek out new and better methods of caring for patients in hospital.

Will you help us to improve the care of patients by making a contribution to one of our research projects? We will gladly send you details.

Write to the Appeal Director
or Telephone 0171 935 1174.



'Help Medicine' Appeal Fund
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE.

Registered Charity No. 274888

24/OBITUARIES

Jack May

Jack May, actor: born Henley-on-Thames 23 April 1922; married Petra Davies (one son, one daughter); died 19 September 1997.

Nelson Gabriel, the suave antique dealer and wine-bar owner in the long-running radio serial *The Archers*, was a role that the actor Jack May played for 45 years. He took the part in 1951, when he joined as son of the waggish Walter Gabriel, and made him into a character famed for his underhand business methods. "He's not a crook but he's a bit of a rogue," May once said.

The star's voice was familiar to children as Igor, the butler, in the animated television series *Count Duckula*, whose characters were also voiced by actors such as David Jason and Ruby Wax, but his best-remembered screen performance was playing the valet Simms alongside Gerald Harper in the 1960s fantasy series *Adam Adamant Lives!*

Born in Henley-on-Thames in 1922, May was educated at the Forest School, Essex, and had ambitions to go into a career that would suit his extrovert qualities. "Barrister, archbishop, prime minister - Mrs Thatcher could have been my Chancellor of the Exchequer - or quite possibly the theatre," he said years later.

However, after serving in India during the Second World War and teaching for a year on his return, May turned down a scholarship to Rada to study at Merton College, Oxford. Acting with the Oxford Universi-

ty Dramatic Society convinced him that his future lay on the stage and he subsequently made his professional debut with Colchester Repertory Theatre in October 1950, playing Titinius in *Julius Caesar*. He moved on to the prestigious Birmingham Rep (1950-55), where he took leading roles in *Richard II*, *Uncle Vanya* and *Moon on the Yellow River*.

In 1952, while acting in Birmingham, May was approached by the producer Tony Shryane to join the cast of *The Archers*, a year after the farming serial made its debut on the BBC Light Programme. He remained in the role of Nelson Gabriel, the well-spoken son of the villager Walter Gabriel, until January 1997, when ill-health forced him to leave.

The Archers recording schedules left May plenty of time to do other work. On stage, he became the first actor to play Henry, consecutively, in the three parts of *Henry VI*, in Birmingham Rep's productions both in Birmingham and for a season at the Old Vic, London, in 1953. His West End roles included the Headmaster in *A Voyage Round My Father* (Haymarket Theatre, 1971), Martin Knight in *At the End of the Day* (Savoy Theatre, 1973), and Colonel Pickering in *Pygmalion* (1974).

May's feature films included *There Was a Crooked Man* (1960), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1966), *The Man Who Would Be King* (as the District Commissioner, 1975), *The Seven Percent Solution* (1976), *The Return of the Soldier* (1982), *The Shoot-*

ing Party (1984), *The Bounty* (as the Prosecuting Captain, 1984) and *The Doctor and the Devils* (as Dr Stevens, 1985).

On television, he acted Shakespearean roles in both *An Age of Kings* (1960) - running the Bard's plays together to cover 86 years of English history and the lives of seven monarchs - and *The Spread of the Eagle* (1963, featuring Shakespeare's Roman plays). He also played Major Quattrini in the sci-fi series *A for Andromeda* (1961) and appeared in *The Verdict Is Yours* (1962-63), a Granada Television series of unscripted trials, each over three days, and a forerunner to the company's long-running *Crown Court*.

May's face became most familiar to television viewers as the valet Simms, helping Gerald Harper to swashbuckle his way through two series of crime and villainy in *Adam Adamant Lives!* (1966-67). Produced by Verity Lambert, the programme starred Harper as the Edwardian gentleman-adventurer Adam Llewellyn de Vere Adamant, who had been drugged and frozen alive in a block of ice by his arch-enemy, "The Face", in 1902 before thawing out 64 years later to find himself in London during the Swinging Sixties, complete with strip clubs, protection rackets and unruly youth.

Writers such as Tony Williamson, Brian Clemens, Robert Banks Stewart and Vince Powell and Harry Driver worked on the programme and the directors included Ridley Scott and Moira Armstrong. Juliet Harmer played Harper's mini-skirted dollybird sidekick,

the chirpy girl-about-town Georgina, in a partnership that had echoes of Steed and Emma Peel in *The Avengers*. With May as Harper's valet, William E. Simms, the programme also had elements of *Batman*.

Later, he was heard as the voice of the butler Igor in the children's series *Count Duckula* (1988-91), a spin-off from *Dangermouse*, which had been created by the writer Brian Trueman and the singer Mike Harding. Both series were made by the highly revered Cogswell Hall Productions. Where *Dangermouse* was a spoof of James Bond films and comic-strip superheroes, *Count Duckula* - featuring the duck that pulled hats out of rabbits - offered young audiences horror stories and creepy-castle settings, and was applauded by critics for the quality of its comedy.

May also made guest appearances on television in *Doctor Who* (as General Hermack, 1969), *The Life and Times of David Lloyd George*, *Shoestring*, *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (1981), *The Cleopatras* (1983), *All Creatures Great and Small* (as a drunken vicar), *Jeeves and Wooster* (also as a vicar, 1990) and *Danielle Steel's The Ring* (1996).

Married to the actress Petra Davies, May was an antiques dealer with a shop in Islington, north London, for many years.

Every *Archers* listener has a favourite character, writes James Fergusson. Mine has always been Nelson Gabriel.

Nelson was raffish, cool, sardonic, faintly disreputable.

He brought a smooth urban loucheness to the dim lanes of Ambridge. Most of the male *Archers* characters are, it must be admitted, wimps: there is a hangdog desperation about them as they slip off to the Bull or, worse still, the Cat and Fiddle, while their assertive wives make tea and curse them over the kitchen stove. They are hen-pecked, soft-bellied, predictable. The only thing predictable about Nelson was that, despite his surface steadiness, he was almost certainly up to no good. You could love him, but you couldn't trust him further than the wine-bar door.

Nelson had been in prison. He was dodgy. He disappeared from time to time. Inside the world-weary affable mine host at that wine bar was a mad playboy who had, by the end, given up trying to break out, and he knew it.

He was born in 1933, the books tell us. His grandfather was the village blacksmith. His father, Walter (1896-1988), was the one with the silly voice - "Hello me old pal, me old beauty" - who conducted a dingdong romance with Mrs P (Polly Perkins) for an eternity. The appallingly behaved Nelson was the apple of his father's eye.

Walter was a farmer who took up making rocking chairs in his old age. Nelson was a lad who liked, wine, women, Jaguars and luxury cruises. He did his National Service in the RAF (ground staff, whatever he said, not airborne) and then lost £6,000 of his father's pools winnings in an engineering business in the early Sixties. He

escaped the courts after forging a co-director's signature on a document, but not after he later masterminded a mail-van robbery. He was tried at the assizes and, by sheer luck, acquitted.

Like most of Nelson's ventures, the robbery didn't come off. He was at various times involved in betting shops and property. But his principal concerns were an antique business, first with Lilian Bellamy (widow of Ralph, the last squire of Ambridge), then with Kenton Archer (twin sister of Shula), and the wine bar, which closed down at least once. He was arrested for receiving stolen goods at the one, and narrowly prevented from setting up a sauna and massage parlour (with Charlie Grundy as the unlikely chief masseuse) at the other.

In later life, ever more genial, he settled in his father's black-and-white thatched Honeyuckle Cottage, to the north of Ambridge village green. He conceived a passion for the local "toff" Nigel Partridge's alcoholic mother, Julia, dispensed cynical advice to the young and ripped off the *Archers* when they sold him furniture.

He never married, but had an illegitimate daughter, Rosemary, who turned up, to his horror, as a trainee police cadet.

Jack May played Nelson Gabriel for an astonishing 45 years, and could surely never be replaced. I was an extra in a film with him once, *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1969). As far as I was then concerned he was not Nelson at all, but Simms, Adam Adamant's valet.



May: *The Archers*' raffish, cool Nelson Gabriel

Georges Guétary

Lambros Worlhou (Georges Guétary), singer, dancer and revue artist: born Alexandria, Egypt 8 February 1915; married 1955 Jeanine Guyon (one son, one daughter); died Mougins (Alpes-Maritimes), France 13 September 1997.

One of the tourist sights of pre-war Paris was the spectacle of the legendary *chanteuse* Mistinguett negotiating the glittering cascade of steps as she made her entrance on the vast plateau of the Casino de Paris, her diamond-gloved right hand grasping in terror the reassuring left forearm of Maurice Chevalier or Jean Gabin.

They were her favourite "Boys". When Chevalier left - she had accused him of trying to make her stumble, a not infrequent *faux pas* as she stalked and tottered around in absurdly high heels - his place was taken by a succession of personable young chorus boys who became known as the *quadrille*. Their most glamorous member was the singer and dancer Georges Guétary, who, while respectful enough to "la Misi"

on stage, teased the ageing star in her spangled boas and panoplies of rainbow ostrich feathers top and bottom by calling the quadrille of "les Boys" her "four gigolos". But such was the warm good-nature of Guétary, his teasing was always tender, and *la Misi* adored him, as did many of the ladies (and some of the gentlemen) who fell under his irresistible spell.

Part of Guétary's exotic charm, and much of his stage persona as a "Latin lover" with a voice of *Crème Chantilly* resided in his mischievous innocence combined with an erotic mystery inherent in his ancestry. His parents were Greek. They emigrated to Egypt, where Georges was born and brought up in Alexandria and Cairo.

He was baptised Lambros Worlhou at the Greek Orthodox Church. So he had a background similar to that of one of my favourite poets, Constantine Cavafy, who lived most of his life in Alexandria, where he died in 1933. It is quite possible that Guétary knew him. This connection, however slight, was



Guétary: velvety voice
Photograph: Moviestore

enough to stimulate my interest in the singer when he arrived after the war in London, where Cavafy's poems had begun to be translated.

As a child, Georges was an ardent flimgoer, and he was taught the rudiments of music. His father was a figure in the textile industry, and intended his son to follow in his footsteps. So Georges dutifully attended the Chadi School of Commercial Studies, one of the best Greek schools in Alexandria. In 1937, his father dispatched him to Paris, to further

his knowledge of commercial procedures. But instead of attending to business Georges went to the music school run by the great violinist Jacques Thibaud and the pianist Alfred Cortot. Thibaud advised him to take lessons from the singer Nino Vallin, who gave him a good classical training, so that before he ever began singing popular songs he became an accomplished performer of the lieder of Schubert, Schumann, Fauré and Duparc.

His first appearance on stage was in 1937 at the European as a soloist with Jo Bouillon's band, where he was "discovered" one night by the eagle-eyed Mistinguett, who fell for his dimpled smile's almost phosphorescent brilliance, and for his velvety voice. He started appearing as her cavalier at the Casino de Paris in 1938, and was an immediate popular success.

Guétary began making his first recordings at this period, and with the outbreak of the Second World War went on tour as a solo singer and also in revue and operetta, in which genre he was to make his name.

His first role in operetta was in 1942, in *Tou, c'est moi*.

As the war progressed and France suffered under the Nazi occupation, Georges thought it would be prudent to move south, to Toulouse, where he got a job as *maître d'hôtel* at Bellosi's, then one of the leading restaurants of *la ville rose*. He stayed at the Hôtel Victor Hugo, singing "Sérénade Portugaise" and Tino Rossi's big hit "Veni-veni-veni" to anyone who would listen. His voice charmed even the Gestapo. The accordionist Fredo Gardoni took him on tour, thus re-activating Georges' career.

He was very popular in the Toulouse region, with its memories of the great tango composer Carlos Gardel. The public loved his "Méditerranéen" voice, rolling its "rs" like the River Garonne running over its pebbles. It was while he was in Toulouse that he was advised to change his name. He became Georges Guétary, a change that displeased many Basque patriots and performers who had staked their reputations on being true Basques.

In 1943, he moved back to Paris, where he starred in a long series of operettas. Among the most successful were *La Route fleurie* ("The Flowery Path") at the ABC which ran for four years from 1952, *Pacifico* (three-year run), *La Polka des lampions* (three years) and *Monsieur Carnaval* (three years at the Châtelet, the temple of operetta). He even did a turn with the Cirque Bouglione, singing his most beloved numbers and performing a *haute école* number. His recordings sold by the millions: "Bolero", "Bambino", "Ce Soir à Mexico", "Chiquito", "Le Petit bal du samedi soir", "Samba brésilienne" and all the hits from international operetta. He also made films directed by Gilles Grangier: *Le Cavalier noir*, *Les Aventures de Casanova*, *The Gypsy Baron* (1954), *Le Chemin du paradis* (1955), *Une Nuit aux Baléares* (1956), in which he attempted to catch up with the younger generation with "Georges, viens danser le rock'n'roll".

But Guétary also had a successful career abroad, beginning in London, where Sir Charles

Cochran starred him in *Bless the Bride*, written with great wit and panache by A.P. Herbert, and with Vivian Ellis's enchanting score. It ran for nearly a thousand performances in 1947, and was followed by *Latin Quarter* (1949) which the British public found a refreshing change from Ivor Novello. In 1950 he played on Broadway in *Arms and the Girl*, for which he was awarded a Tony as Best Foreign Performer. He went on to Hollywood to appear with Gene Kelly in Vincente Minnelli's *An American in Paris* (1951), in which he sang "Swonderful".

At the age of 80, Georges Guétary returned to one of his old haunts, the Bobino music hall, to give a farewell concert. By then, he had become known affectionately as "The Eternal Young Man". The audience was composed mostly of elderly blue-rinsed ladies crushing a tear beneath rhinestone-rimmed eyeglasses at their heart-throb song with his honeyed tones the ballad of their youth.

I had taken the precaution of asking for an aisle seat, in case I wanted to leave early, but

found myself caught up by the magic of Guétary's 90-minute performance. He even came down into the stalls to wander among his fans as he sang, and he even stopped in front of me as he sang "La Valse des regrets" (music by Brahms) a capella. I was one of the very few men in the audience, though there were a lot of younger girls who had come possibly to hear the songs they had heard their mothers and grandmothers sing.

Georges Guétary was still in good form. He never smoked or drank, and took exercise every day. He kept his voice in trim, too, by vocalising for an hour or so in the afternoons. His charm was intact, though I did notice he had resorted to a neat pastiche. The smile was as dazzling as ever, and there was still that naughty twinkle in his eyes as he sang certain songs he must certainly have thought of as slushy to say the least. He kept his art alive by the saving grace of humour, and by never taking himself, or his outrageous operetta roles, too seriously.

— James Kirkup

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

PULLIN: A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lester William Pullin will be held at Holy Trinity, Brompton, on Monday 13 October at 3pm.

Announcements for Births, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned on 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2018, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing for funeral and are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

TODAY: The Princess Royal, Patron, BT Global Challenge, attends a prize-giving ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1. TOMORROW: The Prince of Wales attends the Annual Banquet of British Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in Westminster Abbey, London. The Duke of York, Patron, starts the 1997-98 Whitbread Round the World Race at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Changing of the Guard
TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. F Company News Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand passed by the Scots Guard. TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Mr David Burns, ambassador to Finland, 68; Sir Jeremy Child, 53; Mr John Danks, 68; Mr Geoffrey Dear, HM Inspector of Constabulary, 60; The Very Rev George Gairie, 72; Sir Douglas Falconer, former High Court judge, 83; Mr Caroline Flint MP, 36; Mr Mike Hall MP, 45; Mr John Harle, saxophonist, 41; The Right Rev Colin James, former Bishop of Winchester, 71; General Sir Gary Johnson, chairman, International Defence Advisory Board to the Baltic States, 60; Dr Michael Kilborn, cricketer, 35; Miss Sophia Loren, film actress, 63; Miss Anne McIntosh MP, MEP, 43; Professor Robert Mclennan, anatomist, 74; Miss Jane Manning, soprano, 59; Miss Christine Oddy, MEP, 42; The Right Rev Kenneth Riches, former Bishop of Lincoln, 89; Mr Eric Sayers, former chairman, DUP, 81; Mr Alan Simpson MP, 49; Sir John Whitehead, former ambassador to Japan, 65.

TOMORROW: Mr Ian Albery, inspector, 61; Mr Cande Anderson MP, 42; Lord Barnard, former Lord-Lieutenant of Durham, 74; Mr Charles Clarke MP, 47; Mr Leonard Cohen, singer and poet, 65; Miss Shirley Conran, novelist, 65; Miss Mary Fetherston-Dille, former organist of the Citizens Advice Bureau, 79; Mr Larry Hagman, actor, 66; Professor James Ham, former president, University of Toronto, 77; Mr John Hoddinott, Chief Constable, Hampshire, 53; Sir Colin Inray, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, 64; Mr Stephen King, novelist, 49; Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones, Emeritus Professor of Greek, Oxford University, 75; Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman of the National Coal Board, 85; Sir Peter Matthews, former chairman of Vickers, 75; Sir John Smith, former Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 59.

Sir Brian Urwin, president, European Investment Bank, 62; Professor Bernard Williams, philosopher, 68; Mr Jimmy Young, radio presenter, 74.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY: Births: Alexander the Great, 356 BC; Kenneth More, actor, 1914; Deaths: Jean Louis Christian Sibelius, composer, 1957; John Styne (Julius Kravitz Stein), songwriter and composer, 1994. On this day Salisbury Cathedral was consecrated, 1258; 36 Victoria Crosses were awarded for gallantry at the Battle of Alma, 1854; the first Queen Elizabeth II was launched at Clydebank, 1966. Today is the Feast Day of St Candida of Carthage, Saints Fausta and Eulalia, Saints Theodora, Philippa and their Companions, St Vincent Madelgarus and the Martyrs of Korea.

TOMORROW: Births: Herbert George Wells, novelist, 1866; Gustav Holst (Gustavus Theodore von Holst), composer, 1874; Deaths: Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro), poet, 19 BC; Sir Walter Scott, novelist, 1832; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, 1860. On this day: Britain abandoned the Gold Standard, and the pound fell from \$4.86 to \$3.49, 1931. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Matthew the Apostle, and St Maura of Troyes.

LECTURES

TODAY
National Gallery: Norman Coady, "Septuagintarians (3): Bassano, The Purification of the Temple", 12 noon.
National Portrait Gallery: Moyo Cogswell, "Andy Warhol: the artist as genius", 3pm.

TOMORROW
Tate Gallery: Picasso and Bacon: muted cries and silent laughter", 2.30pm.

FAITH & REASON

Something new in a million at a Mass

The Pope seems to draw ever larger crowds. Yet Catholicism, like all major denominations, is ever less popular. Andrew Brown explores the paradox and concludes that people want spirituality, not religion.

The Pope's visit to Paris last month was quite extraordinary. Probably over a million people turned out to hear him at the Longchamp race course. It is possible that there were as many people in that one congregation as there were in all the Church of England congregations in England that weekend. What made it all the stranger was that the Catholic Church in France seems to be an empty husk. The shortage of priests is immense and growing: there are fewer than 100 vocations every year, and only one in 20 of the priests in France is under the age of 40. I do not know how many are over 70, but it would be surprising if there were not more of them than of the comparative whippersnappers of 35 or so.

What this means in practice can be seen by wandering into a countryside church and seeing how huge is the num-

ber of ancient parishes amalgamated into the care of one priest. In one place I tried in August, it appeared that one priest was looking after 35 villages. This is not exceptional, and nor is it a situation that can be long sustained. Either the number of priests must rise, or the number of faithful will diminish to match the number of priests available. So how is one to reconcile the huge personal triumph of the Pope with the picture of a retreating church? One answer, which used to be heard more often and more loudly, was that the Pope was bringing renewal to a demoralised church, and that with his fresh and vigorous certainties we would make the institution as attractive as he is himself. But he has been there for 18 years now, and the promised renewal is not apparent. If a tightening up of discipline had been all the Church needed, there would surely have been some progress made by now in restoring the ground lost since the Sixties. But there has not been.

In America and Germany there have been struggles of the utmost bitterness between Left and Right within the institutional church over its relations with feminism. And it is tempting to suppose that it is the Church's difficulties with feminism and with sexuality generally which lie

at the heart of its problems in the modern world. But this may be simplistic. Actually the Pope's response to feminism has been far more sophisticated and flexible than he is given credit for.

The real difficulty for the Catholic Church in the modern world may lie in the fact that it is a religion. The extraordinary separation of religion from spirituality is one of those facts so obvious as to be almost invisible. One of the reasons it is difficult to notice is that it is difficult to define. Of course, everyone is against "religion", "dogma" and so on. But the spiritual movements to which they may flee demand usually far more credulity and far blinder obedience than mainstream religions. Those sects which manage to be simultaneously traditional and religiously anti-establishment, like the Anglican cult of Holy Trinity, Brompton, are distinguished from the more conventional parts of the Church precisely by the greater conformity they demand of their worshippers, the more abundant miracles with which they supply them - and by their relative success.

Damian Thompson, the author and former religious affairs correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, has an elegant theory which points out another and perhaps vital difference between "re-

ligious" and "spiritualities". This is that religions are spread vertically, through families; and spiritualities horizontally, through friends. Religions are what our parents believed; spiritualities are what our contemporaries believe. This distinction is a purely sociological one. It says nothing about the content of beliefs. But it does make a prediction: that as families become less and less important as means of cultural transmission, so religions will necessarily decline. The religious imagination will remain a human faculty. It will simply find new expressions, and call these spiritualities.

The Pope is a figure who straddles in some respects the divide between religion and spirituality. He is respected as a "spiritual" leader and rejected as a "religious" one. In these circumstances, gathering practically the entire Catholic population of France to one Mass is not just an impressive feat. It is a wise one. For in a crowd of a million people, Catholicism will seem to the young worshippers something new, something that young people do together, something spiritual. That may be its only hope to survive as a Western religion.

* *Faith & Reason* is edited by Paul Valley

ICI hit by Merrill Lynch downgrading

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN
STOCK
MARKET
REPORTER
OF THE YEAR

The stock market was ruffled by a sudden outpouring of negative advice from leading securities houses.

Imperial Chemical Industries, Siebe and De La Rue were three singled out for analytical attention.

ICI fell 32p to 986p with Merrill Lynch doing the damage, downgrading its recommendation from buy to neutral. It has, however, left its profits estimates unchanged - £365m before exceptional costs this year and £600m next.

Analyst Robyn Coombe is a little nervous of ICI's third-quarter trading this year and points out the American Union Carbide group produced a cautious profits statement.

Engineer Siebe gave up 28p to 1,145.5p with Société Générale Strauss Turnbull suggesting investors should take their profits and De La

Rue, the struggling security printer, fell 5.5p to 399.5p as UBS said sell.

The rest of the market had an uneventful session with the futures expiry, although creating active trading, failing to produce the roller coaster experience some had predicted.

Footsie was higher in early trading but soon turned red. It ended down 22.4 points at 5,023.8. Still, over the week it has advanced 198, more than making up ground lost last week.

Tate & Lyle made a remarkably strong farewell to Footsie. It is one of five blue chips losing their Footsie membership to make way for new recruits.

The final Footsie hours are often fairly subdued but T&L was at one time 11.5p higher. It later lost some of its exuberance, closing 6.5p

firmer at 420.5p. Turnover was brisk.

Stories of a bid from cash rich Associated British Foods are the reason for the action. Although such a deal could run into competition problems - one analyst described it as a "monopolistic nightmare" - there are suggestions T&L's move from sugar into a much more broadly based sweeter group could offer opportunities for a deal to be struck with monopoly authorities.

Railtrack's progress was derailed by the Southall crash. At one time the shares were up 10.5p. But as reports of the tragedy came in they fell back, ending 8.5p lower at 836p.

Granada, the leisure and showbiz group, added 15p to 819p following upbeat meetings with analysts. Savoy Hotel, which this week recorded a sharp profits advance, fell

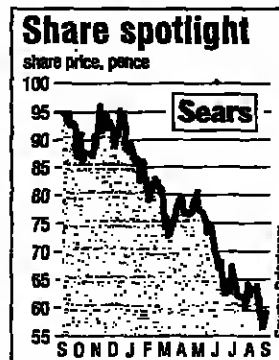
37.5p to 1,275p. The low voting shares have fallen from a 1,597.5p peak this year on disappointment Granada has failed to find a buyer for its stake. It is by far the biggest Savoy shareholder but because of the group's two tier voting structure accounts for only 42 per cent of the votes.

Various rumours have circulated; ranging from a trade sale of the Granada stake to a flotation, leaving the Savoy as an independent company.

Sears, expected to disclose another set of poor figures next week, edged forward 2p to 58.5p on talk it was open to a break-up of its struggling shoe shops chain. It was reported that company doctor David James, in charge of the sprawling shoes operation, had concluded a piecemeal sale was the best option. Any such deal could produce an exceptional charge of around £100m.

On Thursday Sears, which plans to demerge its Selfridges department store, is expected to produce an interim loss in the region of £6.5m.

Last year's interim was a £16.8m profit. The shares have come down from 96p last year. Airtours, the packaged holidays group, had a topsy-turvy session, swinging between



sale of the Granada stake to a flotation, leaving the Savoy as an independent company.

Sears, expected to disclose another set of poor figures next week, edged forward 2p to 58.5p on talk it was open to a break-up of its struggling shoe shops chain. It was reported that company doctor David James, in charge of the sprawling shoes operation, had concluded a piecemeal sale was the best option. Any such deal could produce an exceptional charge of around £100m.

On Thursday Sears, which plans to demerge its Selfridges department store, is expected to produce an interim loss in the region of £6.5m.

Last year's interim was a £16.8m profit. The shares have come down from 96p last year. Airtours, the packaged holidays group, had a topsy-turvy session, swinging between

a 33.5p gain and an 18.5p loss. The shares ended unchanged at 1,054p. The departure of two directors from a subsidiary and worries about the holiday industry price war eroding profits created the turbulence.

Newcomer Computergroup, placed at 100p, traded up to 120p.

Prism Leisure was the day's main casualty, crashing 85p to 82.5p. It said year's results would be lower than expected. Finance director Robert Skelton is leaving although his departure was said to be unconnected with the profits warning.

ASW, the steel group, remained in the bid spotlight, gaining a further 2.5p to 39p. There was confusion whether 12 per cent stakeholder Usinor Sidor, a French group, had denied any interest in bidding.

TAKING STOCK

Fairfield Enterprises, a supplier of packaging and printing machinery has £4m in the bank and could soon be on the take over trail. Its shares were introduced to the market last month; they have risen from 117.5p to 135.5p. Stockbroker Teather & Greenwaker expect steady profits progress. It is looking for £2.3m this year and £2.7m for 1999.

There is rumoured to be boardroom unrest at European Mining Finance. The shares have fallen from 27p last month to 20p, off 1p yesterday.

DATA BANK

Seag volumes:
905.7m
Seag trades:
47.130

Share Price Data
Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, including extraordinary items but excluding exceptional costs. Gilt prices are Bloomberg's. Other details: Ex rights = ex-dividend; a Excl = a suspended share; a P = a partly paid up share; a N/A = not applicable.

Source: Bloomberg

The Independent Teleshare - Tel. 0891 - 201 200
To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200.
You will hear the current FTSE 100 index followed by a Stock Market Summary Report.

You can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying in a 4-digit code from the listings on this page.
To get a Membership Number or set-up your Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 071-728-6288 (during business hours).

For help with the service, including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on 071-728-6288.
FTSE plc, London EC4A 4DF.
Only one call per day please.

Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes
at 5.00pm

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour
Open: 5049.4 up 1.4 11.00 5052.4 down 3.0 12.00 5053.9 down 1.5
5049.4 up 1.4 11.00 5052.4 down 3.0 12.00 5053.9 down 1.5

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75
20.75 Anglo Pacific 20.75 -0.05 4.1 20.75

A BT 0800 number could put a few noughts on your bottom line.

Why not change the way we work?

Try an 0800 number for 3 months for only £25 plus call charges.

Freefone 0800 800 800

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

Try an 0800 number for 3 months for only £25 plus call charges.

Freefone 0800 800 800

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

25 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00

Wiggins	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00	15	100
White	8.35	-0.35	- 53	307	45	Johnson Ind	82.00	1.00	15	100	797	47	Gen Acct	82.00	1.00		

SuperSIB snubs City by plumping for Docklands

SuperSIB, the City's mega watchdog, will not be located in the Square Mile. It has told 2,000 staff how to get to its proposed new office in London's Docklands - but failed to name the senior figures who will report to new chairman, Howard Davies.

Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports.

SuperSIB snubbed the City yesterday, choosing a building in Docklands to house the enlarged financial regulator from the start of next year. The move, greeted with resigned acceptance by the staff of the new City watchdog, is a big blow to the Corporation of London, which was unable to provide a large enough building quickly or cheaply enough.

The decision came as senior regulators admitted privately that there had been a delay in naming senior appointments to the watchdog, leaving the heads of the self-regulatory organisations on tenterhooks as to whether they would have a place in the new regime.

The decisions, expected this week, will not receive approval from the Chancellor's office for another two weeks it has been estimated.

The delay is an embarrassment for Mr Davies just days after Colette Bowe, head of the

Personal Investment Authority (PIA), indicated she did not want to be considered for any of the senior positions to be filled. It is also not clear how keen others such as Imro's Philip Thorpe or the SFA's Richard Farrant will be to exchange control of their fiefdoms for a lieutenant's position in the new monolith.

There are further concerns about how successful a new structural model for the new watchdog will be. Mr Davies is pushing through a radical shift from a vertical structure, where regulators control all functions from authorisation to investigation and supervision for one type of firm, to a horizontal model where they will oversee, say, authorisation for all financial companies.

NewRO, as the regulator will be known until a suitable acronym has been agreed, is moving to the last vacant building in the Canary Wharf development, built by the Reichmann brothers at the height of the last property boom and rescued from receivership in 1992. The decision was taken by a meeting of the board of the Securities and Investments Board on Thursday.

A spokesman for the Corporation of London said there was "obvious disappointment" at the decision, which means the unified regulator for activities in the Square Mile will not be located there. He added, however, that the decision was in part a reflection of the City's success - there is simply no ac-

commodation left in the City big enough to satisfy SuperSIB's requirements for around 300,000 sq ft of space to house its 2,000 employees.

The Corporation played down any suggestion that past disagreements between the City and Docklands had flared again over the move. "We are happy that Docklands is there. If it had not been, and if the City had not relaxed its building regulations when it did in the 1980s many firms would have simply moved away to the Continent."

Staff at the various regulators that are dotted around the City and Docklands, and which will be folded into SuperSIB next year, were informed yesterday of the decision and supplied with information packs in an attempt to allay fears that they were being asked to move to the south-east's own version of Siberia.

Howard Davies said: "After an exhaustive search, we have concluded that Canary Wharf offers the best available accommodation for us. The space is flexible, the price is right and, crucially, we can put all our staff together on one site in just a year's time."

NewRO will take on the regulatory responsibilities of a range of watchdogs, including the Bank of England, SIB, Imro, the PIA, SFA and DTI. The combining of the regulators will take place next year despite Royal Assent for a new Financial Services Act not being possible for two more years.



Liberty has received planning permission for the first phase of a three-year, £40m redesign of the Regent Street store (above)

Liberty restores dividend despite losses

Liberty, the upmarket retailer, lost more than one-fifth of its average weekly sales following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The group closed its flagship Regent Street store for the best part of two days on Sunday 31 August when the company learned of the Princess's death and for the morning of her funeral the following Saturday. Ian Thomson, Liberty's managing director, said yesterday the decision to close the store lost the group more than £200,000 in sales which would

not be recovered and trading in the week following the funeral was below normal.

Speaking as the company restored its dividend, but moved into trading losses for the six months to August, Denis Cassidy, chairman, said the strength of sterling against the yen had depressed the Japanese tourist trade at Regent Street and the group's Heathrow airport shops. Mr Cassidy said he was extending the Liberty brand into shirts and knitwear, in preparation for a big expansion into

airports outside the UK. "Airports are about hands. Well-heeled, busy people who fly are the perfect customers." The group is considering opening a shop at Gatwick airport. Liberty said it was talking to Seibu, its Japanese joint venture partner, on overseas expansion and was also in "fairly serious discussions" with operators in East Asia and the Middle East. The company was also considering expanding in mail order, though it is not "top of the priority list". Liberty has just received

planning permission for the first phase of a three-year, £40m redesign of the Regent Street store, which will include, for the first time, escalators. However, Mr Cassidy was keen to emphasise that the period look of the mock Tudor building would remain. "The escalator will be at the back of the building. It will have no visual impact, but it will improve the flow of people." The first phase of the refurbishment, which will increase floor space by more than 50 per cent, involves con-

verting a warehouse in Canary Wharf into offices, freeing up space in the main store. The year effect shaved around 4 per cent off sales and £500,000 from headline profits. Sales in the half year to August rose 10 per cent to £27.3m helped by the building society windfalls. A £137,000 trading loss, compared to £777,000 profits last time, reflected £1.2m spend on marketing and the costs of strengthening senior management.

May deadline boosts EMU prospects

Last weekend's decision by European finance ministers to fix bilateral exchange rates for EMU next May, eight months ahead of the 1999 deadline, has given a further boost to the project. But many on our panel believe the optimism is based more on sentiment than reality.

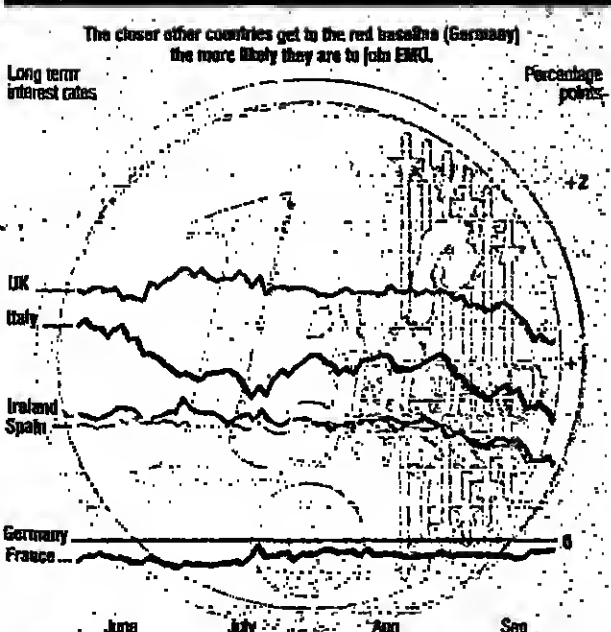
Julian Jessop of Nikko Europe says the result of last weekend's "Ecofin" meeting was widely expected. However, "psychologically, it has helped EMU sentiment, if only because it is great when Europeans can agree on anything. Not only are they making monetary union happen, but they are making it happen earlier."

With next week's French budget likely to be accompanied by a forecast that the 1998 budget deficit will fall within the Maastricht target of 3 per cent, Mr Jessop says it is difficult at the moment to see what could alter the current positive feelings about the project.

Philip Chitty of ABN Amro largely supports that analysis, saying the outcome of the meeting should help sway the doubters.

Thereafter, however, the two economists differ. Mr Chitty is encouraged by the prospects for the German economy and the political determination of the French. "We more and more believe [EMU] will be on time on a broad basis," he said. By contrast, Mr Jessop points out that the Germans could still derail the project, with next spring's Bundes-

Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view



TOWARDS EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View

The Independent asked analysts from: Nikko Europe, Patten Webster, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Salomon Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time:	73%	(72% last week)
Probability EMU is delayed:	21%	(18% last week)
Probability EMU never happens:	6%	(10% last week)

destag vote to approve EMU "the biggest single hurdle that monetary union has to clear".

Agreeing that there has been something of an over-reaction to the Ecofin meeting, Darren Williams of UBS also

Electricity competition faces new setback

The opening of the domestic electricity market to competition has hit a further setback with another two regional suppliers warning they would not meet next April's deadline.

East Midlands Electricity and London Electricity have told the industry regulator, Ofwat, they may not be ready to launch competition in their areas until September of next year. This brings to three the number of suppliers having difficulties adapting their computer systems. The other company is Southern Electric.

News of the latest hold-up came as Ofwat published a report by its advisers, PA Consulting, warning that the overall

timetable for liberalisation remained tight and that any late changes to the systems being introduced would result in significant delays.

The aim is to start allowing Britain's 22 million domestic electricity customers to shop around for supplies from next spring. The first four suppliers which expect to be ready are Eastern, Manweb, Seaboard and Yorkshire.

However, the cost and complexity of installing the computer systems that will allow suppliers to talk with one another, new entrants and the electricity pool is causing increased worries.

A spokeswoman for Ofwat

said that if detailed design requirements changed it could have a significant impact on the overall programme.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the head of Ofwat, warned that with just over six months to go, much still remained to be done, although he welcomed the progress made so far.

Ofwat has written to East Midlands and London and asked what they are doing to bring themselves back on line.

Earlier this week Midlands Electricity confirmed it had abandoned a multi-million pound computer system after concluding that it would not be ready in time for next April.

Michael Harrison

The cost of pensions starts to fall

Costly product charges levied on pensions by many of the UK's top insurance companies may be starting to come down, according to new research.

The drop comes three years after the introduction of rules from the Securities and Investments Board, the City regulator, designed to foster greater competition among insurers.

But some companies have resisted cutting charges, according to a study by Money Marketing magazine. Sandra Grandison, who edited the survey, said: "There is evidence costs are beginning to come down."

Research by Money Marketing shows the annual cost of many pensions is reducing. The fall in management costs is

called the Reduction in Yield (RIY), expressed as the average percentage amount taken out of a policy each year.

The survey of life insurers' unit-linked investments shows the typical cost of a personal pension for someone aged 60 has tumbled from an RIY of 5.9 per cent to 5.1 per cent.

Nick Gault

BBC 'stifles competition' in quest for new enterprises

David Elstein, chief executive of Channel 5, yesterday accused the BBC of stifling competition as it entered the new media age.

Mr Elstein's broadside came as it emerged the BBC was to pump around £10m of public money into its online services. Speaking at the Royal Television Society's biennial conference in Cambridge, Mr Elstein said: "You're going to have to rethink what the BBC is there for. Is it a commercial enterprise or a public broadcaster?"

He said the BBC's 24-hour news service, which is funded by licence payers' money and launches later this year, threatened to put other news operators out of business. "There are three 24-hour news services - CNBC, CNN and Sky News," he said. "The BBC will be the fourth, funded with £30m a year - which is more than any of the others have."

Mr Elstein said the BBC should be regulated more effectively and that none of the competition authorities had the power to crack down on it.

However, David Docherty, deputy director of television at BBC Broadcast, dismissed Mr Elstein's concerns, saying it was impossible to separate the

commercial projects from the public service. "It is much more complicated than that. By virtue of creating TV and radio programmes, you create commercial assets."

Answering Mr Elstein's claims that the BBC was insufficiently regulated, Mr Docherty said the corporation was "subject to close scrutiny by the Government".

The BBC's head of online services, Edward Briffa, was asked what justification he had for using licence payers' money to move into media such as the Internet. He replied: "The same justification we had in 1945 when we moved into television."

Mr Briffa is overseeing the creation of online versions of several well-known BBC programmes. *Crimewatch* will soon make an appearance on the Internet where users will be able to access a database of major unsolved crimes in Britain. *EastEnders* chat forum is also to be launched imminently.

The BBC's 24-hour news venture ran into controversy last month when several cable operators indicated they would drop Sky News in favour of the corporation's services.

Cathy Newman

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	100.00			0.6726	0.6724	0.6724	0.6724
Australia	2.0430	2.0430	2.0430	1.3844	1.3844	1.3844	1.3844
Austria	20.72	20.72	20.72	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25
Belgium	36.36	36.36	36.36	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75
Canada	2.2276	2.2276	2.2276	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808
Denmark	13.64	13.64	13.64	6.7725	6.7725	6.7725	6.7725
ECU	1.4903	1.4903	1.4903	1.016	1.016	1.016	1.016
Finland	8.9358	8.9358	8.9358	5.9409	5.9409	5.9409	5.9409
France	6.5595	6.5595	6.5595	1.3603	1.3603	1.3603	1.3603
Germany	2.0566	2.0566	2.0566	1.7778	1.7778	1.7778	1.7778
Greece	43.248	43.248	43.248	28.224	28.224	28.224	28.224
Hong Kong	12.495	12.495	12.495	7.7122	7.7122	7.7122	7.7122
Italy	10.753	10.753	10.753	1.4903	1.4903	1.4903	1.4903
Japan	163.89	163.89	163.89	1.7812	1.7812	1.7812	1.7812
Malaysia	4.824	4.824	4.824	3.0225	3.0225	3.0225	3.0225
Mexico	9.47	9.47	9.47	2.0069	2.0069	2.0069	2.0069
Netherlands	3.2266	3.2266	3.2266	0.6724	0.6724	0.6724	0.6724
New Zealand	2.5579	2.5579	2.5579	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808
Norway	10.559	10.559	10.559	6.7725	6.7725	6.7725	6.7725
Portugal	20.33	20.33	20.33	1.016	1.016	1.016	1.016
South Africa	6.0336	6.0336	6.0336	3.7595	3.7595	3.7595	3.7595
Singapore	2.0332	2.0332	2.0332	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808
South Korea	7.5233	7.5233	7.5233	4.7783	4.7783	4.7783	4.7783
Spain	24.856	24.856	24.856	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808
Sweden	4.7490	4.7490	4.7490	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808	1.3808
Switzerland	2.3598	2.3598	2.3598	1.4903	1.4903	1.4903	1.4903
US	1.0000			1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Dollar	Country	Spot	Dollar
Argentina	1.0000	0.0000	Poland	5.9994	3.4900
Brazil	1.0000	0.0000	Portugal	5.9994	3.4900
China	8.2756	0.0000	Romania	1.0000	0.0000
Czech Rep	33.444	0.0000	Saudi Arabia	1.0000	0.0000
Egypt	3.4900	0.0000	South Korea	7.5233	0.0000
Ghana	2.0332	0.0000	Spain	24.856	0.0000
Hungary	3.4900	0.0000	Sweden	4.7490	0.0000
India	36.400	0.0000	Switzerland	2.3598	0.0000
Indonesia	2.0332	0.0000	Taiwan	2.0332	0.0000
Kuwait	0.0437	0.0000	Turkey	2.0332	0.0000
Nigeria	1.0000	0.0000	UK	1.0000	0.0000

Interest Rates

Country	3 month	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

Money Market Rates

Country	Overnight	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00

Energy

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00

Industrial Metals

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00

Precious Metals

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 12	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00

Agricultural

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Short 06	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00
Long 09	Dec-97	117.75	117.00	117.00	117.00

WH Smith opts for the Handover solution



OUTLOOK



JEREMY
WARNER

Having scoured the world for a new chief executive, WH Smith has finally settled on someone who's been sitting there in the backyard all along. The City was as underwhelmed by news of Richard Handover's appointment as everyone else. It may seem a bit of a cheap shot to describe this company man of 32 years service as just a glorified paper boy, but that is where Mr Handover has earned his reputation - on the newspaper wholesale and distribution side of the group.

To be fair, he seems to have made a pretty good fist out of this unglamorous enterprise in the two years he's been doing the job. It is one of the few parts of the group on an improving trend right now. Nor is Mr Handover devoid of retail experience. Before his present incarnation he was managing director of WH Smith's Our Price offshoot, where he was instrumental in the merger with Virgin Retail. So it would be wrong to write him off.

All the same, judging by what he was saying yesterday he doesn't seem to have much of a plan for reshaping the main retail chain or for addressing its underlying weaknesses - chief of which is that nobody knows what sort of a store WH Smith is meant to be any longer. If it is a newsagent, it is under vicious attack from the supermarkets; if a book or record store, there are others

that do it better; and as a gift shop it is scarcely worth bothering with. No amount of the "basic retail discipline" Mr Handover promises to inject into the chain is going to solve this fundamental difficulty with the WH Smith formula. It's just out of date. Nor does the company's explanation of why it took so long to settle on Mr Handover sound entirely plausible.

According to Jeremy Hardie, chairman, it was because the board first had to satisfy itself there was no external candidate better suited to the role. The argument can equally well be stated the other way round, however. If Mr Handover was so self-evidently right for the job, why didn't the board go for him immediately? Whatever he does, Mr Handover will find it hard to bury the suspicion that he was always second or third choice.

Whatever else may be said about him, at least Mr Handover has got one thing in his favour. With 32 years' service behind him, he's plainly not a quitter. The same could not be said of his predecessor, Bill Cockburn, who took just eighteen months to decide that running a business in the real world of harsh commercial competition was not for him. He's now back at British Telecom, which like his previous company, the Post Office, is essentially a monopoly. There's little doubt about who's got the tougher assignment.

Sifting through my customary sackful of leaked Whitehall memos yesterday, I came across a copy of a draft letter from Tony Blair to Bill Clinton musing on the subject of globalisation. Though this letter has not yet been sent, I believe it only right and proper in the interests of open government to reproduce it here.

"Dear Bill, I don't know whether you noticed, but apparently Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse are to merge to create the world's largest accountancy practice. I have to say that I am wholeheartedly behind this sort of corporate response to the progressive integration of the world economy and I think we should both be doing our bit to ensure the competition authorities don't stamp on it.

Funnily enough, I've rather been thinking along the same lines myself - how do we as governments respond to the increasingly global needs of our clients (ha, ha, only kidding. I mean the people of our two countries, of course). I make the following suggestion, only half in jest. It's all part of my vision to create a global people services powerhouse, which I know you share.

Why don't we merge our two administrations? The new organisation would be in a position to provide unprecedented service to global, national and local commu-

nities worldwide. Together we could offer a comprehensive range of business assurance, business advisor, tax, management, IT and human resource consulting services and a commitment to helping people wherever they are formulate and implement strategic solutions which drive growth and improve business performance.

Last time we met I could not help but be struck by the compatibility of our cultures and shared vision. We seem both to be committed to offering our electorates world-class capabilities to help them solve increasingly complex business problems they encounter as they expand and globalise.

Combining these two great organisations will create a tremendously dynamic professional environment that will provide our clients with the support they need to succeed in the global marketplace and will give us an unparalleled ability to develop and execute innovative and strategic solutions. It makes sense for our clients and it makes sense for our people. I know there are a few little local difficulties involved.

For a start there's what to do with our Queen. Rest assured that I have that one in hand. Then there's Brussels. That wretched man Karel Van Miert, the EC competition commissioner, will block us giving the chance. But none of these things are

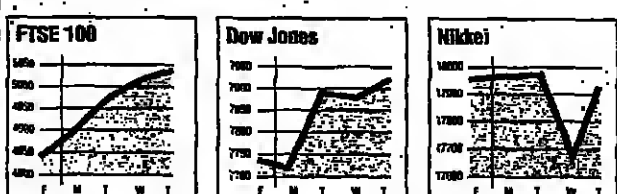
beyond the wit of a clever investment bank like Goldman Sachs. How about it?

Yours, Tony (with apologies to the press release announcing the merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse).

My colleague Diane Coyle, who is in Hong Kong for the International Monetary Fund meeting, tells me that the World Bank Staff Association has issued a circular to delegates whingeing on about low morale. They would have done well to have kept their grievances (which include such gems as being forced to downgrade from first to club class travel) to themselves. If anything, James Wolfensohn, head of the bank, deserves warm applause for undermining the morale of his comfortable, well-heeled bureaucrats. This is the organisation that used to be known as the Glenside Bank, thanks to the lavish perks staff enjoyed as they doled out aid in some of the world's poorest countries - together with some of its richest criminals in their guise as heads of state.

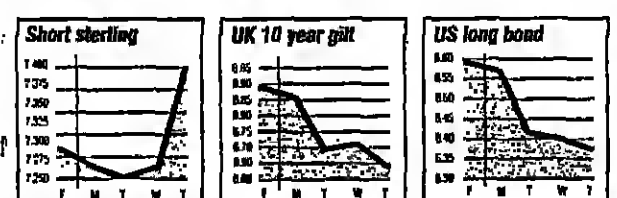
Mr Wolfensohn is only the latest in a line of presidents to try to reform this mammoth bureaucracy. If he has really managed to score such a big hit on staff morale, he might turn out to be the first to actually accomplish anything.

STOCK MARKETS



Indices	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5048.20	33.10	0.66	5086.80	3800.40	3.51
FTSE 250	4701.80	15.00	0.32	4729.40	3348.10	3.51
FTSE 350	2425.80	14.40	0.60	2458.00	1849.20	3.51
FTSE All Share	2370.2	13.50	0.57	2376.38	1525.79	3.50
FTSE SmallCap	2291.2	5.80	0.25	2374.20	1728.40	3.32
FTSE Hedging	1270.2	2.80	0.22	1346.50	1198.70	3.27
FTSE AIM	1017.1	2.80	0.28	1136.00	1002.10	0.93
Dow Jones	7922.72	36.28	0.46	8290.31	5867.74	1.06
Nikkei	17330.09	246.82	1.40	21512.30	17303.06	0.85
Hang Seng	14418.48	8.26	0.06	16673.27	11346.70	2.99
Dax	4000.48	-10.00	-0.25	4438.93	2824.44	2.80

INTEREST RATES

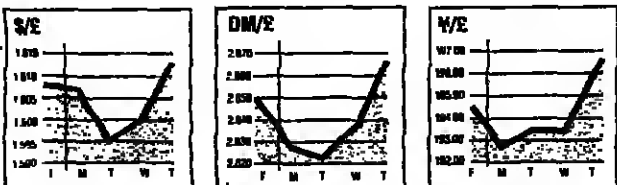


Money Market Rates	2 month	1 yr	3 month	10 year	1 yr	Long bond	1 yr
UK	7.77	1.40	7.50	1.34	6.53	11.10	1.55
US	5.72	0.06	5.97	-0.10	6.89	-0.11	7.10
Japan	0.58	0.07	0.64	-0.08	2.18	-0.70	2.84
Germany	3.30	0.20	3.70	0.40	5.53	-0.65	6.17

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Yuh-Fu Hides	308.50	23.50	8.25	Airtours PLC	1054.00	-63.50	-5.88
Brit Biotech	108.00	9.50	8.99	RMC Group PLC	996.50	-55.50	-5.27
Lonrho PLC	113.00	5.50	5.12	Body Shop Int	179.00	-7.50	-4.02
Worthington (WIM) Sup	197.00	8.50	5.07	SIG PLC	318.50	-13.00	-3.92

CURRENCIES



Pound	at 1 pm	Change	% Chg	Dollar	at 1 pm	Change	% Chg
Dollar	1.8103	+1.00c	1.5606	Swedish	0.8210	-0.42c	0.6408
D-Mark	2.8685	+2.84pt	2.3557	D-Mark	1.7792	+0.75pt	1.5094
Yen	196.35	+12.92	170.37	Yen	121.94	+10.81	109.13
£ Index	100.00	1.10	85.90	£ Index	105.70	0.60	97.00

OTHER INDICATORS

Comd	Chg	% Chg	Index	Chg	% Chg	Index	Chg	% Chg
Brent Oil (\$)	18.01	-0.03	21.77	GDP	112.80	3.40	108.1	24.02
Gold (\$)	320.65	0.40	382.85	RPI	159.80	3.5	153.14	7.02
Silver (\$)	4.83	0.05	5.05	Base Rates	7.00	5.75		

all data as of 18 Sept source: Bloomberg

Wolfensohn defends scheme to give poor countries debt relief

James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, challenged critics, who claim the year-old initiative to lighten the debt burden on poor countries is faltering, to put their money where their mouth is by voting for increased aid spending. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports from Hong Kong on the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"Debt forgiveness is an issue of morality, but it is also an issue of money," Mr Wolfensohn said yesterday. He was responding to the charge that the World Bank-IMF plan to reduce debt interest payments by developing countries, announced with much fanfare this time last year, had lost crucial momentum.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor

of the Exchequer, aligned himself with the Bank's critics earlier this week, announcing a seven-point plan to restore the impetus by ensuring that three-quarters of the world's poorest countries had started down the debt relief path by 2000.

Mr Wolfensohn said yesterday: "If Gordon Brown would like to make a very large donation, I would be very happy to accept it." He added: "Where does the money come from? It comes back to the governments, and to you as voters and taxpayers. In the end it gets back to you."

But the World Bank president predicted the campaign for debt forgiveness by the end of the millennium would become a more prominent public issue during the next two years. In the UK the Jubilee 2000 campaign, organised by churches and unions, has already been building up a new head of steam.

Aid organisations attending the meetings in Hong Kong this week said the amount of money required to keep the present World Bank-IMF plan - known

as the HIPC initiative because it concentrates on the highly indebted poor countries - was minimal.

"The question of money is a red herring because the sums involved in the HIPC initiative are so minimal," said Ian Bray, an Oxfam spokesman.

The expected cost of planned debt relief for 19 countries over more than a decade is only \$7bn-\$8.5bn (£4.4bn to £5.3bn) in total, or about half the UK government's likely budget deficit this year.

However, the charities welcomed Mr Wolfensohn's commitment to the initiative. "He's got a complicated game to play and his heart is definitely in the right place," said Andrew Simms of Christian Aid. "He has staked his personal reputation on it."

Mr Bray said: "He's right to say it is a question of political commitment." One of the reasons for slow progress on debt relief has been the unwillingness of some of the richest countries, notably Germany and Japan, to finance it. The IMF has also moved

more slowly than the World Bank on the plan, reflecting its traditional fiscal caution. Yesterday 56 aid and environmental organisations sent Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, an open letter protesting at the slow progress it was making on offering debt relief.

Henry Northover, policy officer for the Catholic relief agency, Cafod, said: "The British government is throwing down the gauntlet to those governments which have repeatedly placed obstacles in the way of speedy debt relief for the world's poorest countries."

Mr Wolfensohn said yesterday: "I think the initiative is moving, although there are some differences of view as to the pace." He denied suggestions that the process was too slow and the hurdles too high, saying that three countries - Uganda, Bolivia and Burkina Faso - had their debt reduction packages agreed with three more in the pipeline. "I feel very comfortable in my skin that we have taken all practical steps," he said.



James Wolfensohn: 'I feel very comfortable in my skin that we have taken all practical steps' Photograph: Reuters

Thailand under fire from World Bank

The World Bank yesterday joined the International Monetary Fund in criticising the Thai government for being too slow to react to this summer's currency crisis. Diane Coyle finds that the recent financial turmoil in East Asia is the hottest topic for discussion at the Hong Kong convention centre.

The World Bank and IMF have confirmed reports that they are dissatisfied with Thailand's response to its financial crisis, which the international com-

munity is spending \$17bn (£10.6bn) in emergency funds to resolve. Both also say they warned the Thai government earlier this year about the danger its currency would collapse.

James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, said: "We would like to see the Thai move more quickly and more definitively." He added that the coalition government's political fragility had prevented faster implementation of policies recommended by the Bank and Fund.

"We and others have been commenting on these problems for a long time, but the Thai run Thailand," he said.

His remarks followed similar comments by Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, on Thursday. Mr Camdessus said: "We have been

impatient to see the reform of the financial sector put in motion." He said the Thais had complied with all the macro-economic policy advice, tightening the government's belt and increasing interest rates.

With Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, and financier George Soros due to speak - separately - this week-end about their sharply opposed views on the recent turmoil in Asia's financial markets, the crisis has become a dominant subject for discussion at the World Bank-IMF meetings.

In a special seminar on Asia run by the IMF yesterday, the head of research, Michael Mussa, said the Thai problems would have been less if the government had acted earlier. "Market confidence in Thai-

land obviously remains fragile, and the effects have spilled over into other South-east Asian economies. Policies adopted under duress do not carry the same weight with the financial markets," Mr Mussa said.

Speaking at the same seminar Andrew Sheng, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, defended Hong Kong's adherence to a fixed exchange rate even though it was Thailand's doomed effort to support its exchange rate that triggered the crisis in July.

A large part of the Thai problem is the exposure of its banking system to unhedged foreign currency loans taken out by private sector companies. The reform of the financial sector is seen as the main element of the rescue package.

Prism shares crash as finance director quits

Prism Leisure, the computer games group, saw its shares crash from 167.5p to 82.5p yesterday after it warned on current-year profits and said its finance director was leaving at the end of the year. Profits for the year to March would be significantly below current expectations, the company said, after the rise in the value of sterling hit overseas sales. According to Prism, the departure of Robert Skelton is unconnected with the profits warning. In the first six months, sales in the computer software division fell 44 per cent and profits slipped 31 per cent.

Eurocamp marches ahead

Eurocamp, the camping holiday specialist, said it expected to achieve a solid advance in 1997 compared to the 1996 result, with all sections of the group making a valuable contribution. The company was confident of making further progress in 1998, it said in a trading statement. A spokesman said: "As the summer holidays come to a close we are able to confirm the indications given in our earlier statements of a much improved performance from our camping businesses in 1997."

Chartwell requests order

Chartwell International Group, the business services group which a week ago suspended dealings in its shares on the Alternative Investment Market, has petitioned for an administration order, the purpose of which is to protect the ongoing business of the company. Two administrators have been appointed from Langley & Partners.

DCS buys computer firm

DCS Group has agreed to buy VHA Computers, a systems house supplying services to network and desktop computer users, for £4.5m, funded through cash, loan notes and shares. The latest audited accounts show that VHA achieved a pre-tax profit of £889,000 on turnover of £9.8m for the year ended 31 July. Net assets at that date stood at £947,000.

"I'VE
CHANGED
MY MIND
ABOUT
GIVING TO
CHARITY"

ALL YOUR CHARITIES CAN GET EXTRA

I've recently discovered a new way of giving to charity - new to me, anyway. It means all the causes you support can have extra money. It's the CharityCard.

First you decide how much you want to give to charity. You pay that money into your own CharityCard account. Then the tax man adds more to it.

This means you have what you've already put in, plus an extra 23% to give away! Now, that's what I call a good idea!

YOUR PERSONAL CHOICE OF CHARITIES

You can use the CharityCard for making personal donations over the phone or by post. You'll receive a special Charity 'Chequebook' as well. And you can also arrange standing orders for regular gifts.

Who you give to, how much you give and when you do it are all entirely up to you. You can make donations to absolutely any charity you choose, big or small.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?

Isn't it time you changed your mind about giving to charity? Call free now or use the coupon provided.

Chris Anderson
Give Anderson

The CharityCard comes from the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), a charity established in 1954. Registered charity no. 263046. Website: <http://www.charitycard.org.uk>. Patron HM Treasury. Dated at Edinburgh, Scotland.

"FIND OUT MORE, CALL FREE 0800 99 33 11, DO IT TODAY!"

Please send me more information about the CharityCard™

Mr/Ms/Ms. Initials

Surname

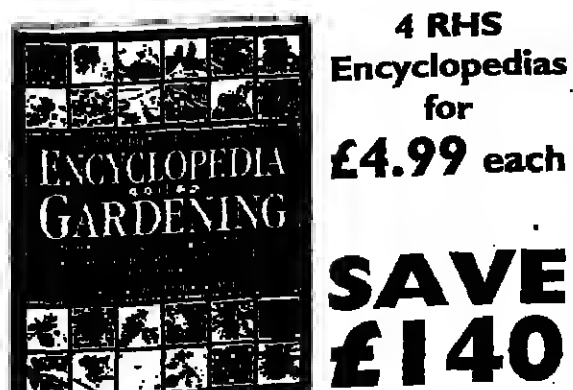
Address

Postcode Tel No

Please send this completed coupon to: CharityCard, PO Box 1025, Stratford Upon Avon CV37 9GH

CAF

RESPECTED



SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT IN TODAY'S THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE
The Literary Guild
Quality, Choice and Discount on EVERY book

American concedes BA alliance may not get Brussels green light

American Airlines has conceded that its alliance with British Airways may not get approval from the European Commission. Michael Harrison reports on the increasing doubts surrounding the transatlantic link-up.

Bob Crandall, chairman of American Airlines, has given the clearest indication yet that it may be forced to walk away from its long-delayed alliance with BA because of the concessions demanded by the EC's Competition Commissioner Jarel Van Miert.

In a speech to senior airline executives on Thursday night, Mr Crandall attacked the "busy bureaucrats of Brussels" and said of the threat to block the alliance: "It would be a shame and there is no justification for it."

He also indicated that in the 15 months American and BA had been waiting for regulatory approval they had drawn up de-

tailed contingency plans in the event of the alliance not being allowed to proceed as planned.

Mr Crandall said the two airlines had learnt a lot about one another since the alliance was first announced in June last year and that they would continue to cooperate in future if the link-up did not go ahead.

His comments, at a dinner in the Dorchester Hotel in London, are the closest a senior executive from either airline has come to admitting defeat. Mr Crandall angrily compared the way other alliances between Lufthansa, KLM and Sabena and US carriers had been approved with the treatment given to BA and American by the EC competition authorities. "Their activism stands in sharp contrast to the quiescence with which they accepted alliances in Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Brussels," said Mr Crandall.

The dinner, held to coincide with a meeting of the American board in London, had been intended to celebrate the successful launch of the BA alliance.

But Mr Crandall said BA

and American could not have anticipated the length of the examination launched by Brussels which has stopped the alliance in its tracks.

Earlier this week Don Carty, the American Airlines president, warned that it would pull out of the merger if Brussels stood by its demand that the two airlines give up 353 take-off and landing slots a week at Heathrow.

Mr Carty said that the price being demanded was not one it was prepared to pay. The Office of Fair Trading has said that BA

and American should relinquish 168 slots - equivalent to 12 round trips a day. Mr Carty said this was as far as American would go and then only if it was allowed to sell or lease the slots.

Behind American's bellicose stance lies a degree of frustration. It is confident that US regulators will approve the alliance because that will pave the way for a wider open skies agreement allowing more US airlines access to Heathrow. But it is disappointed that BA has been unable to gain Brussels approval.

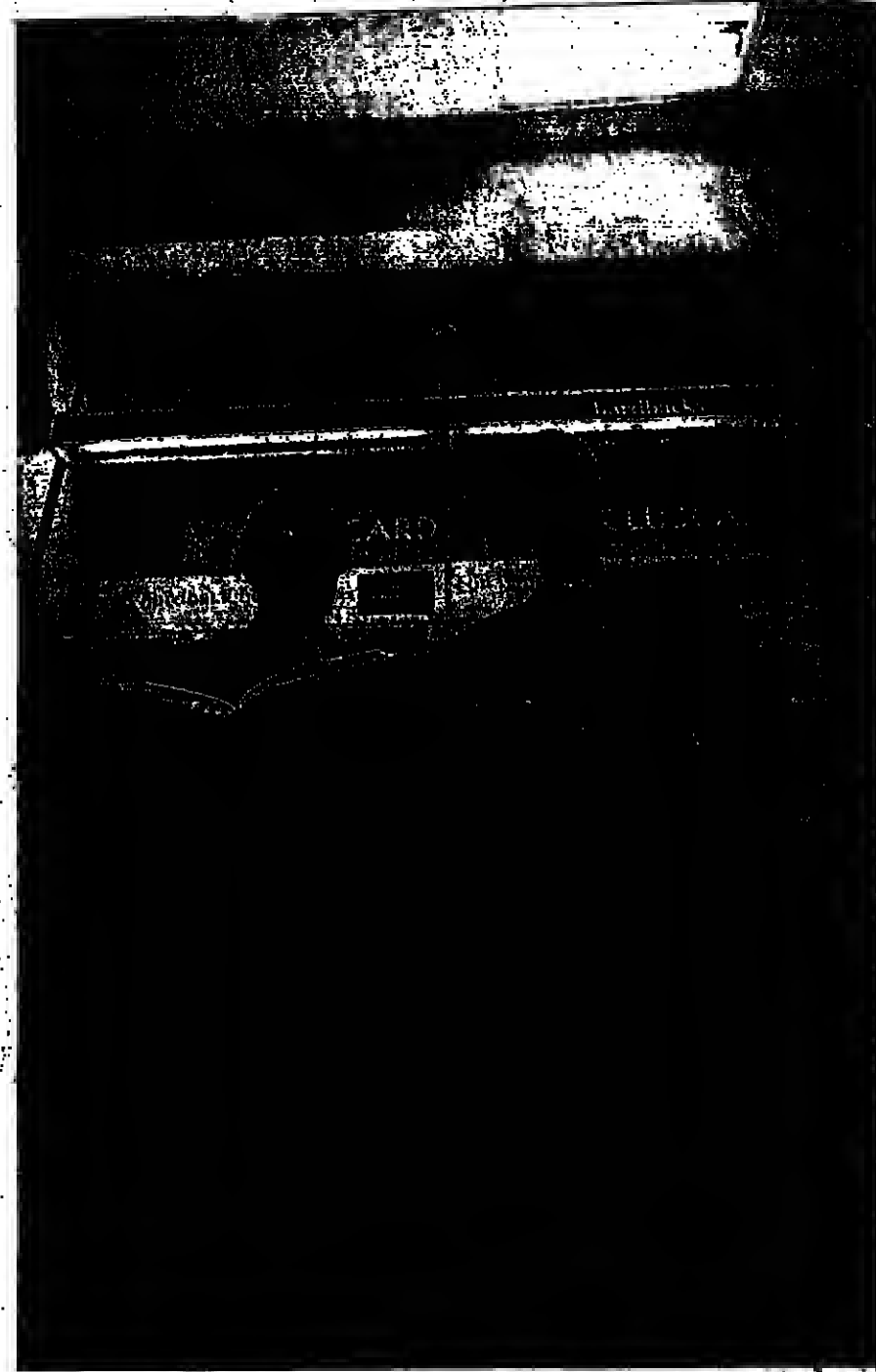
Senior BA executives were more upbeat however, saying that Britain's two EC Commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner, supported the alliance. It was suggested that Mr Van Miert, a former socialist prime minister of Belgium, was making a political issue out of the BA-American alliance because he has his eyes set on the EU presidency when Jacques Santer retires.

Meanwhile, BA is facing the threat of being fined by Brussels for anti-competitive behaviour following complaints lodged by Virgin Atlantic that its sales techniques have breached the Treaty of Rome.

An EC spokeswoman in London denied, however, that it had already concluded that BA was in violation of article 86 of the treaty and said hearings would take place towards the end of October at which BA and Virgin could state their respective cases. "There is no truth in the suggestion that the Commission is about to impose fines. We still have to scrutinise replies and comments."



At loggerheads: Bob Crandall (left) and Karel Van Miert



Jeremy Hardie (left) and Richard Handover at the announcement. Photograph: Philip T. Leach

Would your company like a phone system that never goes out of date?



Technology moves incredibly fast. But it's possible to keep your systems up to date.

At Cable & Wireless, we have the expertise to help you keep your systems up to date. We can help you with everything from your telephone system to your computer system.

Our experts can help you choose the right system for your business. We can also help you with the installation and maintenance of your system.

With so many options, it's important to choose the right system for your business. Our experts can help you with everything from your telephone system to your computer system.

Our experts can help you choose the right system for your business. We can also help you with the installation and maintenance of your system.

With so many options, it's important to choose the right system for your business. Our experts can help you with everything from your telephone system to your computer system.

Our experts can help you choose the right system for your business. We can also help you with the installation and maintenance of your system.

With so many options, it's important to choose the right system for your business. Our experts can help you with everything from your telephone system to your computer system.

Our experts can help you choose the right system for your business. We can also help you with the installation and maintenance of your system.

With so many options, it's important to choose the right system for your business. Our experts can help you with everything from your telephone system to your computer system.

Our experts can help you choose the right system for your business. We can also help you with the installation and maintenance of your system.

With so many options, it's important to choose the right system for your business. Our experts can help you with everything from your telephone system to your computer system.

Handover appointed to take the reins at WH Smith

WH Smith yesterday announced the appointment of Richard Handover as its new chief executive. The group had been rudderless since June, when Bill Cockburn, the former Post Office chief taken on last year to revitalise the company, abruptly resigned to become managing director of British Telecom.

The appointment of Mr Handover drew a mixed reaction, with some analysts and investors saying it smacked of desperation after Smith was left unable to find an outsider to fill the job, despite a high-profile recruitment campaign.

That was reflected in the share price, which slipped 6.5p to 368p yesterday. But Jeremy Hardie, Smith's chairman, dismissed the market's reaction, saying: "This is a longer term thing than a couple of hours. He [Richard Handover] will make a lot of money for us over the next few years, of that I am sure."

He also acknowledged pressure from institutional shareholders to speed the selection process. "This is always a bit of a mystery," he said, "because if people want to express disquiet they can always ring me up. I have not been deluged with a barrage of calls."

Mr Handover would not confirm that Stuart Rose, a former director of Burton, was ever in the running, but said there had been three external candidates alongside three from within the group. As well as Mr Handover, they included Alan Giles, managing director of the Waterstone's book chain, and John Hancock, head of Smith's US operations. Keith Hammill, finance director, pulled out of the running at the end of July. The internal candidates had all expressed their continuing commitment to the business, Mr Hardie said.

Mr Handover was chosen be-

cause of his "excellent retail skills" and because he would keep up the momentum of change started by Mr Cockburn, the chairman said. He refused to be drawn on how much Mr Handover would be paid, other than that it would be "retained" to that of Mr Cockburn, who picked up £254,000 in 1995-96.

Mr Handover is credited with turning round the group's newspaper and magazine wholesale business. He said yesterday his main task was to restore "fundamental retail disciplines" in the main WH Smith Retail operation, including picking out the most profitable lines, which have turned out to be books, magazines and stationery, and starting to sell them more efficiently and in a more exciting way. He said he was "completely supportive" of the efforts of Beverley Hodson, formerly of Boots and Sear's, who was appointed to run the retail business in May.

Even so one shareholder, who echoed the thoughts of many, said yesterday Mr Handover's appointment was "a bit of a cop out".

Mr Handover was chosen be-

cause of his "excellent retail skills" and because he would keep up the momentum of change started by Mr Cockburn, the chairman said. He refused to be drawn on how much Mr Handover would be paid, other than that it would be "retained" to that of Mr Cockburn, who picked up £254,000 in 1995-96.

Mr Handover is credited with turning round the group's newspaper and magazine wholesale business. He said yesterday his main task was to restore "fundamental retail disciplines" in the main WH Smith Retail operation, including picking out the most profitable lines, which have turned out to be books, magazines and stationery, and starting to sell them more efficiently and in a more exciting way. He said he was "completely supportive" of the efforts of Beverley Hodson, formerly of Boots and Sear's, who was appointed to run the retail business in May.

Even so one shareholder, who echoed the thoughts of many, said yesterday Mr Handover's appointment was "a bit of a cop out".

Mr Handover was chosen be-

Iverson appoints right-hand man

Shares in Laura Ashley rose 3 per cent yesterday to 54p on the news that David Hoare had been appointed as chief operating officer.

Mr Hoare, founder of Talisman Management, a private investment firm, will start work immediately and will manage the day-to-day operations of the company.

After the rows which followed Ms Ann Iverson's remuneration last year, Mr Hoare, 47, will not receive a bonus, though he receives undisclosed share options exercisable over five years and which are based on share price performance.

Though the company would not specify Mr Hoare's salary, it said that he would be paid "significantly less" than Ms Iverson, who earns basic pay of £450,000 a year and the finance director who earns £325,000.

Some analysts questioned Mr Hoare's lack of retailing experience. "What this company needs is management of iron, not unknowns," said one.

However, Ms Iverson, who has come under shareholder pressure after she failed to rejuvenate the group's flagging fortunes, denied this was an issue. "It's not a personality contest here. What this business needs is someone who can give operational support and help me turn the business around. David will provide a solid foundation for that."

Asked to comment on Mr Hoare's lack of experience in retailing, Ms Iverson said: "That is absolutely ideal. I am the retailer with over three decades of experience. He brings operational excellence."

Ms Iverson said she hoped to appoint a replacement for Basia Cohen, who is resigning as head of design and buying before the year-end. "We are very far ahead on this," she said.

Several analysts said that Mr Hoare's appointment would take pressure off Ms Iverson. "The scale of turning around this company was just too big for one person," said one City observer.

INSIDE

SuperSib chooses Docklands

Liberty setback

World Bank and IMF criticise Thai government

Gloom for investors in ICI

CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

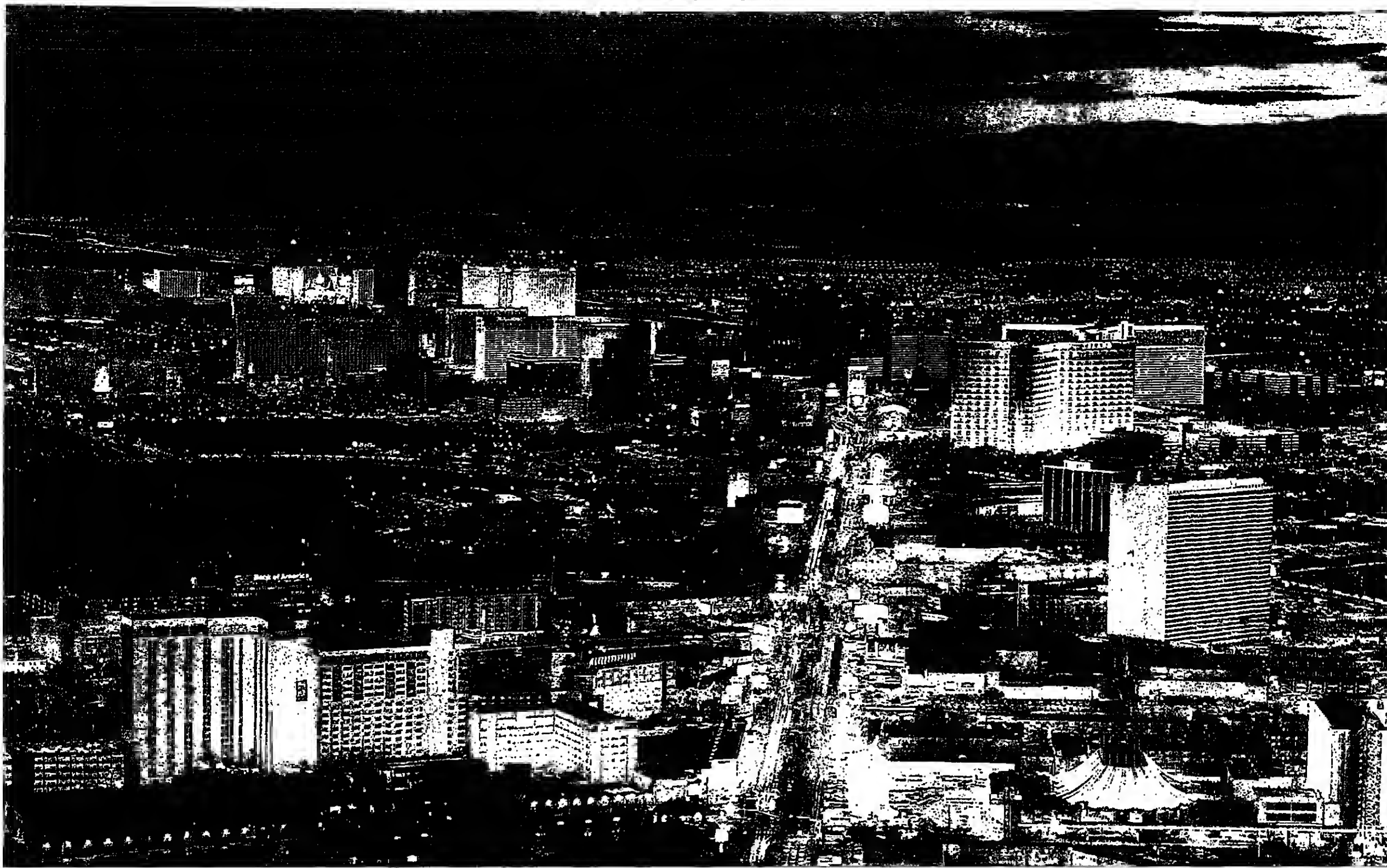
سكاي من الاجل



TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 20 September 1997



STYLING: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

Fasten your seatbelts, suspend disbelief ... this is La\$ Vegas\$

In the *trompe l'oeil* that thinks it's a city, you can spend your days buried in a pyramid, your nights at the Round Table and spend nothing on entertainment. The world's greatest conglomeration of light bulbs is an unnatural high, as *Simon Calder* found when he checked in to Vegas – and checked out of reality.

Imagine. This year, your birthday and Christmas have arrived at once. Your parrots have bought the entire stock of the local toy shop, invested in an extra set of heavy-duty batteries and installed the lot in the sunniest place in the world.

If you think that notion sounds preposterous, just wait until you see Las Vegas. This ludicrous city takes tourism to its gloriously illogical conclusion, and invites the world to a party as endless as the summer.

The moment you realise that reality eludes this corner of the Nevada desert is when, in the midst of a kitsch Arthurian concoction called Excalibur, you see a sign indicating "Moving Walkway to Luxor". The mobile sidewalk wafts you from a climate-controlled version of the English Dark Ages to an equally air-conditioned epitome of ancient Egypt – residing in a hotel that thinks it's a pyramid, protected by a vast, grinning Sphinx.

Luxor is as good a place as any to begin the vain but hugely enjoyable task of trying to make sense of Las Vegas. Forget any traditional notions of citydom – the place is really a succession of villages. They are strung out along Las Vegas Boulevard, a four-lane fury stripped down by everyone to the single-syllable "Strip". While each village is obsessively individualistic, they are all linked spiritually by a passion for absurdity.

The entertainment industry has staked many millions of dollars on creating this nonsense, and you, the visitor, are the winner. At other US airports, flights to the city show the final destination as La\$ Vegas\$. Yet it is easily the cheapest place in America, with most of the attractions being completely free. You can stroke past the Sphinx, wander through the pyramid and take the moving walkway back (and forwards a few centuries) to Excalibur, gratis. Dinner at the Round Table costs more than a couple of groats – but not much more. Competition is as fierce as the heat from the constant sun, which means that you need never pay more than £5 on an all-you-can-eat meal. Gluttony suits the 20th-century's biggest monument to conspicuous consumption rather well.

"Please fasten your seatbelts, return your tray table to the upright position and suspend your disbelief." Even if the stewardess doesn't say that on the final approach to Las Vegas, you will raise your credulity threshold anyway when the aircraft touches down beside Manhattan. Close to the runway, and adjacent to the Anglo-Egyptian complex, someone has seen fit to build New York New York – a hotel so gaudy they named it twice. Despite the collision of the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building and Chrysler Tower, you can tell you're not really in the Big Apple

because a rollercoaster has wrapped its scary self through and around the counterfeit courtyards. Besides, Times Square and Central Park are protected by the giant ceiling that squeezes out the sun, creating a kind of Center Parks for wayward grown-ups. All the usual dimensional reference points are distorted, and any hope of keeping a grasp of the space-time continuum is eliminated by the absence of clocks. Like Manhattan, this city never sleeps. But unlike the real thing, not a single villain is to be seen. You are more likely to be mugged in a nunnery than in New York New York.

Out again, beneath the ever-beaming sun, to investigate that vast green slab across the road. The MGM Grand is America's biggest hotel, but in case sheer size isn't enough to draw the crowds, it comes complete with theme park and moorall. Trains resembling silvery "spaceships" ooze northwards, whispering past the shrieking victims of the SkyScreamer – a monumental cross between a garden swing and a bungee jump.

The train crews collect tickets, because of course there are none, but they do wear badges announcing their name and home town. No one, it seems, actually comes from Las Vegas. What you're dying to ask of "Bob, Boston Mass" and "Sue, Sacramento Cal" is why they should choose to leave their roots for a bit part in the theatre of the absurd.

Maybe they ran away to Circus Circus (so glitzy they named it twice?). When the sun finally beds down, beyond the mountains that guard Las Vegas from hostile reality, you can imagine the frowning engineers watching the meters down the road at the Hoover Dam. This hydroelectric facility struggles to supply sufficient power for the millions of lightbulbs that keep the dark desert night eternally at bay.

A good few thousand of them swaddle Circus Circus. Unlike the average Big Top, this circus is in fact a collection of awkwardly angular hotel towers. The hub, though, is a genuine and gratuitous circus: an arena hemmed in by sideshows. Athletic acrobats perform miracles, accompanied by musicians whose jaded expressions reveal, as clear as a coda, the knowledge that there is no hope of professional progress after tinkling the fake ivories at Las Vegas.

As Elvis Presley demonstrated, this is the right place to see musicians at the wrong end of their careers. Thirty years ago, Stephenwolf were born to be wild: this week they were judged tame enough to play Las Vegas. Nobody makes mischief around here, but if they did they might headline next Saturday's gig at the Rio "The Sounds of Senility": like a bridge over troubled decades, Art Garfunkel will be crooning to the converted.

Continued on page 3

INSIDE TODAY

3/CITY BREAK
48 hours in Berlin

4/SKIING
Eurostar makes tracks for the French Alps

SPORT
17/RACING
A to Z of betting

26/FOOTBALL
Gary Mabbutt interview

ONLY ONE

SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

Chief Medical Officers' Warning
1 mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine



SuperSb
divides
backends
every
track
World Bank
and IMF
criticise The
Government
Gloom for
investors
in ICI



SIMON
CALDER

This week, the governor of California announced he had bought 600 army-surplus M16 automatic weapons for the Los Angeles police. The move will not necessarily make British travellers feel more secure about visiting the place. Yet more alarming, a story in the *Los Angeles Times* suggests that security at the city's international airport is less than perfect.

Earlier this month, a man wanted for making terrorist threats was apprehended by security staff at an airport checkpoint. He was trying to carry a small arsenal of weapons and ammunition on to a domestic flight. Yet instead of locking him up and throwing away the key, as you might have expected, the culprit simply handed over the deadly consignment to police and continued his journey.

It appears that attempting to take a gun on to an aircraft is a felony only if the weapon is loaded - carrying ammunition separately circumvents federal law. So no penalty applies for that. But what, you might ask, about the small matter of being wanted for making terrorist threats? Well, he was wanted by police in his home state of Minnesota. When their counterparts in Los Angeles phoned up to say they had got him, Minnesota's finest declined to come and fetch him because of the time and expense involved.

Travellers may be gratified to learn that he was finally apprehended last week, without the law having to do much detective work. He phoned LA police to give them his address for the return of the weapons. They called their chums in Minnesota, who picked him up.

The three-letter code for Los Angeles airport suddenly seems singularly appropriate: LAX.

It's changed - by which I mean the travel section's location and appearance - but what hasn't is our commitment to bring you the best possible travel coverage. Something else that stays firmly in place is our strict "no-freelance" policy - the insistence that writers pay full price for all travel facilities.

I welcome your comments on the new format and features. You can write to me at Travel, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; send a fax to 0171-293 2182; e-mail travel@independent.co.uk.

Macaroni pies beneath Bertolucci skies



Stonehaven: home to the inventor of the pneumatic tyre, and the first Portakabin. Photograph: Derek Inslide

Scotland's east coast is climatically challenged, despite what some residents say. But in autumn it has other virtues. Wrap up well, says *Fi Glover*, and surrender to the magnificent pies and skies.

My mother used to warn people before they came to stay in Scotland that "the sands on Luanan Bay are sometimes so hot that you can turn the soles of your feet". Please don't use this advice to pack bikinis, high sun factors or great big inflatable LI-Lo's. The really important word here is "sometimes". Which you could, in fact, replace with rarely/occasionally/once, on 18 August 1996.

She has a point, though, about having to advertise her part of the east coast. The long stretch from Edinburgh up to Aberdeen doesn't have much of a tourist track beaten into it - most coaches turn left at Edinburgh for Glasgow and the west, or put their cruise control on and drive straight up to the Highlands, which is a shame. Now is the best time of year to go east, when the leaves on the trees are turning and the air fares are falling and you're expecting it to be a bit chilly. Better advice than my mother's would be: "Fly to Aberdeen, hire a car, and take jumpers."

The coast itself is a giant and straggling version of what you may find on the west. As you drive out of Aberdeen on the coast road, the first thing you notice is a land's end ratio that you get only in deserts, out at sea, or Bertolucci films: huge sky, tiny land. Stonehaven, the first town you get to, proudly boasts that it's home to the man who made the first pneumatic tyre, which is really rather a clever thing to have done.

Stonehaven is a pretty little harbour town with rather a grand central square and the kind of quayside that makes you want to take arty pictures of lobster nets. The Tolbooth is the oldest building in the harbour and was

built as a store during the construction of the local castle, Dunnottar, which makes it the original Portakabin. It now houses a restaurant, and while the other pubs around the quay are showing an addiction to putting any kind of fish in a breadcrumb duff-coat, the Tolbooth is letting it all hang out in a Seared Orkney King Scallop kind of way.

Alternatively, if you just want to sit on the quayside and scoff, then visit the butcher in the town square. Charles Machardy calls himself a high-class butcher, and has won awards for the last three years. I reckon he keeps winning because of his macaroni pies. This is a pie crust heaped with macaroni cheese - it is a carbohydrate experience and is gooey, creamy and crunchy. Don't knock it till you've tried it.

Leaving Stonehaven with indignation, you can once again congratulate Mr Pneumatic Tyre on his invention as you climb into your vehicle and head off to Dunnottar Castle. There are signs for it as you leave Stonehaven but you can't see it anywhere. And what kind of a castle is that? Then suddenly, as you're hitting fourth gear on the coast road, there it is, rising out of a dip in the cliffs, a skeletal ruin of brooding, ninth-century menace. Its positioning is extraordinary; I hope whoever designed it got a gold-rimmed certificate from the ninth-century equivalent of the *Architectural Journal*.

Dunnottar has none of the twee, turreted prettiness of some of Scotland's other national treasures. It's where William Wallace burnt the entire English Plantagenet army alive in 1297, and it's where film directors come in search of the kind of atmosphere that chipboard sets, blue make-up and big budgets could never give them. Stand and shiv-

er for a while as you let that pie settle.

Half-an-hour inland, the scenery changes dramatically. As you head towards the Angus glens, the land gets smoother and the skies get calmer. If you want to "do" a country house while in Scotland then Fasque, home of the Gladstones, is a good choice. This is no Chequers, though while Gladstone

charge of the house, and her son Robert.

Robert knows more about Victorian jelly moulds than any boy I've ever met, and Fasque has more jelly moulds than any other or stately home I've been to. It also has its fair share of Gladstone memorabilia, from the original bag to a table full of Really Important Messages From Really Important

People in their original red leather rolls. And if you visit next weekend you're in for a bonus, as Bonham's will be taking over. The auctioneer will be hosting what is called a "stately attic sale", with treasures from the lofts of four stately homes. Fasque among them. Much of the furniture not on display in the house will be up for grabs, from huge *Chaises-longues* to entire sets of bookcase cues.

But the east coast is really about outdoor things: huge gulps of fresh air and beautiful views, both of which you can get in Glen Esk. My mother, when she wasn't nursing her burnt feet, used to dress my sister and me in matching caugoules and take us up Glen Esk every summer. We used to picnic up by Tarfside, the furthest point you can drive to, where we'd look for adders and try to spot salmon in the clear water in the stream.

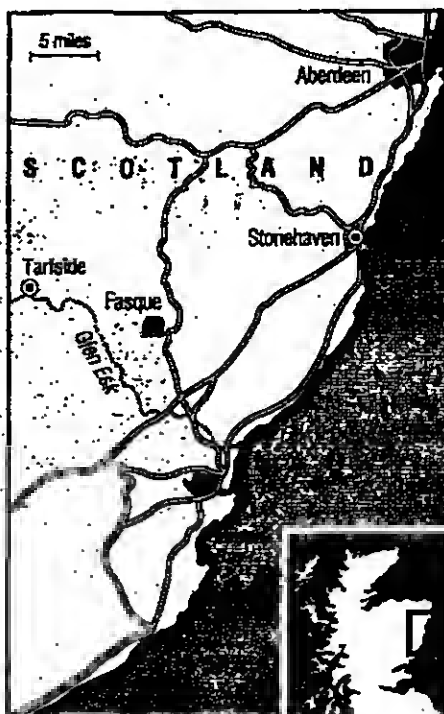
Doesn't it sound idyllic? I hated it, mainly because of the caugoule which, even at the age of nine, I knew was a fashion faux pas. I wouldn't be the first lady to want to travel in style through the glen, though: Queen Victoria has her own little memorial there. She came over the hills from Balmoral on her way to the local Invermark Castle, and stopped with Albert to drink from a spring. The local laird heard about it, and to commemorate the event he built a stone memorial, the Queen's Well, which marks

that thirst-quenching stop. I wonder whether people still do the same thing for the royals; perhaps there's a Princess Margaret vending machine in a sports hall somewhere bearing the inscription: "Madge stopped here and drank a No 2 with sugar."

If you'd rather have beach beauty, then try your favourite place in the world ever, which is Luanan Bay (of the scorching sands). There's a castle set back from the beach and overlooking the dunes which is simply called the Red Castle because of its glorious stone. It's a ruin in the proper sense - parts of it are still dropping off on a monthly basis - and there, stretched out before it, is Luanan Bay.

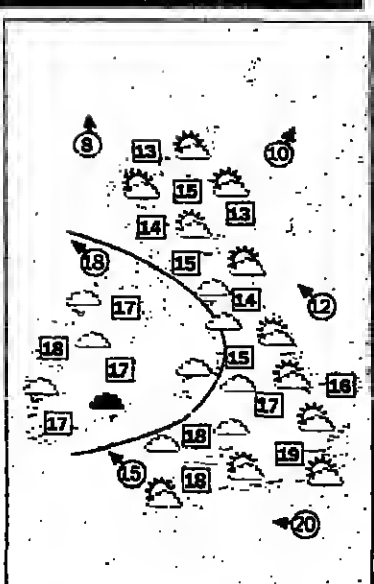
There are only so many ways you can describe a beach and most of them have been done before and involve saying sibilant things such as "sweeping stretches of sand". But Luanan is more than that - it's comfy jumpers and holding hands and dribbling noses, and it's gorgeous. You can spend an afternoon hunting for fossils on the beach, or walk up to the Red Castle and place your bets on which bit will fall off next, or just lie on the sand looking up at the big, high sky and wondering why you didn't buy more macaroni pies.

*Fi Glover paid £77 for a return flight on British Airways (0345 222111). Air UK (0345 666777) currently sells flights from London Stansted to Aberdeen for £54 return, including tax. Avis (0990 900500), Hertz (0990 996699) and Budget (0541 565656) rent cars from Aberdeen airport. Fasque is open 1 May-30 September, 11am-5.30 pm. Dunnottar Castle is open all year round. Contact Bonham's (0131-226 3204) for details of the attic sale, to be held on 27 September. Tolbooth restaurant, Stonehaven: 01569 762287. On Monday at 8.30pm on BBC2, *Fi Glover* can be seen cooking even more exotic fare as the culmination of a Thai Cookery course for 'The Travel Show'.*



was in office Fasque was his get-away-from-it-all ancestral home. Its magnificent first-floor drawing-room has a view past the tretraps of the park, where deer graze. If you're lucky - and I was - you get a personal guided tour from Mrs Trainer, who's in

WEATHER



The British Isles

General Summary and Outlook:

Today will be a dry, settled day over most of the UK, with variable amounts of cloud and sunshine at times after the clearance of early-morning fog patches. However, Northern Ireland, south-west Scotland, Cumbria and north Wales will stay overcast with occasional splashes of rain and some mist over coasts and hills. During the afternoon and evening this grey damp weather should spread across other parts of western Scotland.

Tomorrow, most of the UK will be dry with a mix of clouds and sunshine and mostly light winds, although early-morning fog patches may be slow to clear. However, west and north-west Scotland will stay overcast with drizzly rain at times. Monday will be dry, bright and a little warmer, although western Britain and Northern Ireland will have some showers later. On Tuesday and Wednesday most western and northern areas will be windy and unsettled, but the fine weather will probably linger in the south-east.

	Aberdeen	Cardiff	Edinburgh	Glasgow	London	Manchester	Newcastle	Nottingham	Sheffield	Southampton	Stirling	Wolverhampton
Today	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19
Tomorrow	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19	S 15-19

	London	Cardiff	Edinburgh	Glasgow	London	Manchester	Newcastle	Nottingham	Sheffield	Southampton	Stirling	Wolverhampton
Today	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am
Tomorrow	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am	7:03pm to 6:45am

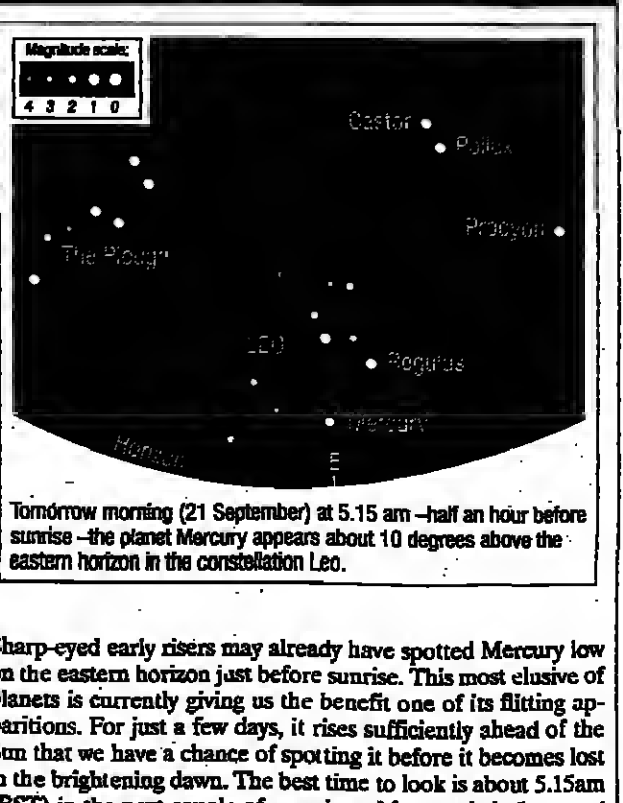
Europe and The World

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Paris	14-18	SW 10-15
Edinburgh	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Amsterdam	14-18	SW 10-15
Glasgow	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Berlin	14-18	SW 10-15
London	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Rome	14-18	SW 10-15
Manchester	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Moscow	14-18	SW 10-15
Newcastle	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Beijing	14-18	SW 10-15
Nottingham	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Tokyo	14-18	SW 10-15
Sheffield	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Sydney	14-18	SW 10-15
Southampton	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Hong Kong	14-18	SW 10-15
Stirling	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Perth	14-18	SW 10-15
Wolverhampton	15-19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy	Port Stanley	14-18	SW 10-15

AA Roadwatch

London, A11 Leytonstone. Lane closures at A12 roundabout until August 1999.
London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed until January 1998.
Surrey, M25 J10-11. Lane closures both ways until further notice.
Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow on Avonmouth Bridge until August 1998.
Staffordshire, A40 Stoke. On 'Test' Major works at M6 until March 1998.
Leicestershire, A6 Leicestershire. Contraflow near M1 J24.
Bedshire, A34 between M4 J13 Chichester Services and Newbury (A4). Roadworks, contraflow and narrow lanes with a 40mph speed limit for the Newbury bypass work.
Greater Manchester, A672 Bury. Temporary lights on Ashton Rd.
Merseyside, A567 Bootle. Stanley Rd closed northbound until further notice.
Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killingworth.
West Yorks, M1 J47. Major long-term roadworks until Sept 13.
Bucks, M40 J14-15. Roadworks with contraflow J14 (M25) and J15.

The Sky at Night



Tomorrow morning (21 September) at 5.15 am - half an hour before sunrise - the planet Mercury appears about 10 degrees above the eastern horizon in the constellation Leo.

Sharp-eyed early risers may already have spotted Mercury low on the eastern horizon just before sunrise. This most elusive of planets is currently giving us the benefit of one of its fleeting apparitions. For just a few days, it rises sufficiently ahead of the Sun that we have a chance of spotting it before it becomes lost in the brightening dawn. The best time to look is about 5.15am (BST) in the next couple of mornings. Mercury is in Leo, and its bright star Regulus should be a useful marker. After that, the next opportunity to see Mercury will be in six months' time. Whether you spot Mercury or not, pre-dawn sky watchers can currently enjoy a preview of Orion and the other magnificent constellations which do not adorn the evening sky until the middle of winter.

Jacqueline Mitton

0345 222111

hours
the life
Berlin

Amsterdam
from
£59 rt

for those
0345 2

48 hours in the life of Berlin

You need a break – and a short cut to the soul of a city. Starting today, *The Independent* will provide a prescription for the perfect weekend break. The first target is Berlin, where *Simon Calder* spends 48 hours.

Why go now?
Because middle Europe's greatest city is on the cusp between the extraordinary and the merely mighty. Get there before all the bureaucrats arrive from Bonn; while it remains tantalisingly schizoid; when the first mists of autumn send chills whispering through handsome streets, and while you still get close on DM3 to £1.

Beam down
British Airways and its affiliates fly from Birmingham, Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester; call 0345 222111 for timings and fares – a minimum of £151 return (including tax) for travel over weekend from Heathrow. Lufthansa (0345 737747) flies direct only from Heathrow. £151.

Tegel airport is about the only location in Berlin that isn't handy for the city's superb rail network – it's tucked away in the north-west of the city, inconveniently disconnected from the U-Bahn and S-Bahn railways. At the airport Info-Point (located opposite gate 0, open 5am-10.30pm), buy a Welcome Card for £10; this gives you 72 hours of unlimited travel throughout the city. Climb aboard the bus to Kurt Schumacher-Platz and connect with U-Bahn line 6.

Get your bearings
The heart of the city is a building site. Potsdamer Platz will, in a couple of years, boast a fine array of new buildings. Until then you have a choice of centres: in the west, the area around Zoo station and Kaiser-Wilhelm church; in the east, around the Deutsche Dom (literally "German Cathedral"). For fun, though, make for Prenzlauer Berg in the east.

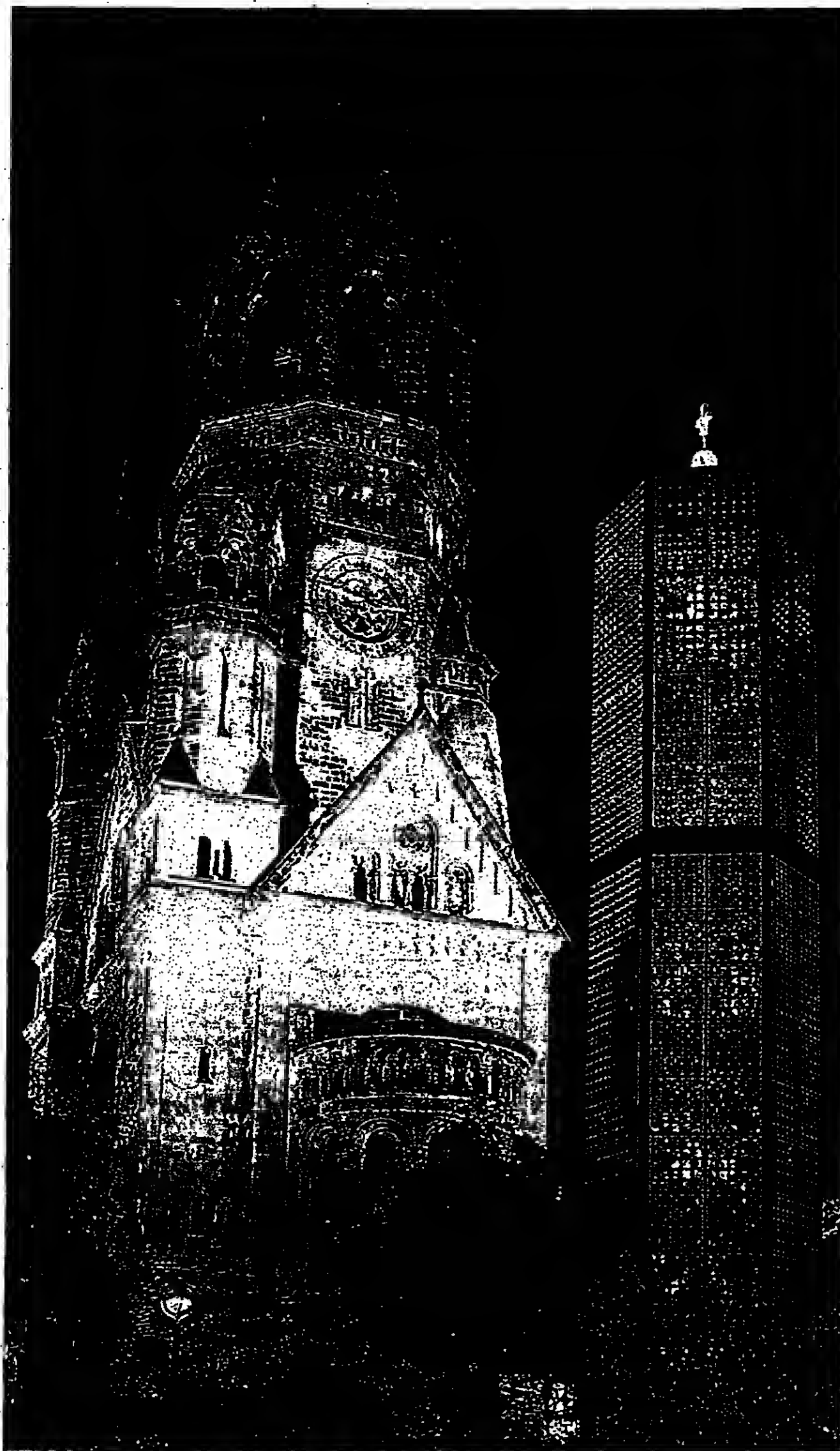
Checking in
The brand-new Adlon (Unter den Linden 77, 00 49 30 22610). It opened last month and has proved wildly popular despite high prices. A room, if you can get one – you'll pay £200 for a double with breakfast. The agreeably flash Inter-Continental (next to the zoo at Budapest Strasse 2, 00 49 30 26020) costs half as much, which includes a Prussian-sized breakfast. At the other end of the scale, the central, cheap and cheerful Transit (Hagelberger Strasse 53-54, 00 49 30 785 5051) costs only £12 for a bed in a dorm, sharing with a sunny (but possibly snore-prone) mix of international travellers.

Take a ride
Easily the best overview of the city is on the S-Bahn from Zoo station to Hauptbahnhof. The line threads itself sinuously from the brass west to the jolly middle of the east. As it slides through Friedrichstrasse station, you may feel a faint shiver to think that this used to be the main conduit between East and West.

Take a hike
That street again. Friedrichstrasse was never the "bustling centre of municipal life" that the East German publicity once claimed, but it traces an articulate course through the core of a once-shattered city, brushing past architecture at turns palatial and brutal on the journey south to the site of Checkpoint Charlie.

Lunch on the run
Currywurst – a street-corner, spicy saveloy.

Cultural afternoon
Forget South Kensington; Europe's finest agglomeration of art is to be found on Museum Island, where four collections jostle for attention. You really need a fortnight rather than a few hours to do them justice, so concentrate on the Pergamon Museum and the breathtaking 2,000-year-old altar that gave it the name.



Kaiser Wilhelm church: the ancient and modern hub of West Berlin

Photograph: Peter Scholey/Robert Harding Picture Agency

Window shopping
The Pergamon closes at 5pm; German law makes shops shut at 4pm each Saturday. Go peer in on the retailers of the Kurfürstendamm.

An aperitif
Trendy things from East and West meet at Volksbühne, a triumphant emporium on Rosa-Luxemburg Platz. Wash down an Apfelkorn (sweet liqueur) with weisse beer, and look like a tourist.

Demure dinner
A stroll along Sredzkistrasse or Knaackstrasse

will reveal more romantically rustic restaurants than you ever thought possible in the former capital of the GDR. Eat well, and sleep well.

Sunday mornings go to church
Like much in Berlin, the Deutsche Dom was devastated by Allied bombs. It has just reopened as a civic museum, tracing 150 years of Berlin.

Bracing brunch
To continue last night's meat'n'alcohol frenzy, call in at Zum Paddewirt, Nikolaikirchplatz 6, any time from 11am. Or try ...

A walk in the park
Mauerpark, north of the centre, is a gentle swathe of green that nuzzles against a still-grafted section of the Berlin Wall. No-man's-land has become everyone's playground.

The icing on the cake
The Café Einstein at Kurfürststrasse 58 will confirm all your suspicions about bourgeois life in Berlin, helping to reduce the EU's cream surplus at the same rate as it increases your waistline. Ten DM (£3.50) buys a Kaffee und Kuchen any time until 2am. When was that flight home?

THIS IS LAS VEGAS

From page 1

A ticket for Ari will set you back £12, a wiser buy than spending cash on a timeshare in a Deja Vu Show Girl – whose company boasts of "Hundreds of beautiful girls and three ugly ones". The prosaic address, 3247 Industrial Boulevard, emphasises that the dollar is the lowest common denominator for every transaction in Las Vegas.

Budget travellers have no need to splash out on ugly girls or ageing singers for entertainment. Defying the civic disdain for clocks, a precise timetable of performances is scheduled along the Strip. Five times a day, Russian gymnasts troupe out a jaw-dropping routine in which a performer perched on a single still is catapulted high into the clear desert sky to something approaching near-earth orbit. No safety net – Las Vegas is all about risk.

Every 90 minutes, Treasure Island stakes its reputation on the live "Buccaneer Bay Show", in which passers-by are invited to watch a platoon of English pirates (complete with cod-Oxford accents) do battle with a Spanish treasure ship.

If, by the time the British boat sinks and is miraculously resurrected, your mind is still battling to keep in touch with reality, the volcano that erupts along the street every 15 minutes will see off the last shred of sense.

Hallucinogenic drugs are expensive, illegal and dangerous. Las Vegas is none of the above, but has roughly the same effect. Oh – and if you wish, you can also gamble.

Simon Calder paid £432 return on United Airlines to Las Vegas via Washington, booked through Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000).

WEDDINGS IN PARADISE?



SWAN CHAPLAIN/CORBIS

If you are not married when you arrive in Las Vegas, you could well be by the time you leave. The Las Vegas home page on the Internet lists 47 wedding chapels, from A Precious Moment to the Wee Kirk o' the Heather.

The Commissioner of Civil Marriages offers instant options for \$70 (including the licence), but for something more sophisticated you will need to shop around – and must expect to pay for romantic touches such as being married by an Elvis impersonator or aboard a hot-air balloon.

Ken Burleson, manager of the Chapel of Love, issues the following advice to prospective partners:

"Dear Bride and Groom,

When I shop I like to know the total charges. So, I'd like to let you know up front exactly what additional charges there will be when you get married in Las Vegas.

"Licence fee \$35 – the only place you can get a marriage licence is at the Clark County Courthouse. Cash payment is required.

"Minister's gratuity – the ministers in Las Vegas are not employees of the chapel. He will give you an envelope at the end of the ceremony. Suggested gratuity \$25 and up.

"Limousine driver's tip – it is customary to tip the limo driver in Las Vegas, around \$20 if the service is good.

"Sales tax – package prices do not include Nevada Sales Tax."

WORLD COVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
CALL US ON 0800 365 121

Amsterdam

from

£59 rtn

Boston

from

£179 rtn

Oslo

from

£139 rtn

South Africa

from

£449 rtn

South of France

from

£119 rtn

For thousands of World Offers call now on:

0345 222111 Book by 1st October '97.

Fares are return from London. All are subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger rules excluded. For detailed conditions see ITV Television p280, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop. Or book and pay at our Internet site, www.british-airways.com

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

4/SKIING

Eurostar's piste de résistance

A big grey train ride, the longest you can take from Britain, begins this winter. Eurostar's link to the Alps aims to tempt skiers from the skies. Stephen Wood reports on the route of the future.

Régine Tête will be busy on 13 December. Apart from all the usual Saturday transfers that her company, Autocars Martin, runs to more than a dozen ski resorts, it will also send a fleet of coaches to Moutiers and Bourg St Maurice railway stations in the late afternoon: the first direct Eurostar service from London to the French Alps begins that day. Leaving Waterloo at 8.57am, the train arrives at Moutiers at 5.41pm and Bourg St Maurice at 6.27pm. The coaches will offer the Eurostar passengers (678 of them, if the train is full) transport to resorts such as Val d'Isère and Val Thorens.

At Autocars Martin, they are keeping calm about how full their coaches could be. Four operators will probably organise transfers to the major destinations, leaving Régine Tête's company to pick up the bits and pieces – independent travellers and skiers heading for smaller resorts such as Pralognan-la-Vanoise and La Rosière. But at those resorts they are far from calm. Hit by the decline in the local skiing market, many small French resorts have formed a marketing organisation, Club Mootagne, and the members in the Rhône-Alpes region are excited about the custom that Eurostar will deliver to their doorstep.

Just listen to Jean-Pierre Jouneau in La Rosière's marketing department. "The Eurostar will radically change the skiing business in this area," he says. "Because they have to organise long transfers from the airports, British tour operators have always concentrated on taking their clients to just a few, big resorts – it's simpler for them.

But now British skiers can travel independently on the train, and have the freedom to go wherever they want. And of course they would rather go to small skiing villages than to huge, industrial resorts." Jouneau is optimistic enough to expect business with British skiers to double this year, thanks partly to the two independent operators, Hannibal and Ski Esprit, who are joining Erna Low and Ski Olympic in offering trips to La Rosière this season.

But at this end of the railway line, the new service seems to be causing less excitement. Eurostar's schedule is a toe-in-the-water job, with just one service a week in each direction. Since both run on Saturdays, and the journey takes eight hours, two different trains have to be used – with the absurd consequence that the one which arrives in Bourg St Maurice then has to go back without passengers to Paris to

resume its weekday job on the London-Paris service. Eurostar says it is contemplating running more trains, but not this season.

The company's pricing has been tentative, too. When the service was announced in the spring, the "standard class" fare was to be £199 return; when Eurostar finally set its prices at the beginning of this month, two lower, "promotional" fares had been added. From 3 to 24 January, £199 will buy a first-class return in standard class, the fare is £129. During the rest of the season (which ends with the inbound train on 25 April), the standard-class fare will be £149. The promotional fares are, however, "subject to availability and conditions": if Eurostar can sell seats at the £199 price for a fully flexible ticket, it will do so.

Quite why the fares were not finalised until this month is a mystery, although Eurostar says that arrangements with its rail-

way partners and government agencies took longer than expected. How well the tickets are selling remains a mystery, too: Eurostar said last week that it did not yet have any sales figures, which – with a computerised booking system – seems rather surprising.

But the big tour operators are clearly treating the train as a niche product – because for them, it is. Figures from Inghams earlier this week showed that a mere 0.2 per cent of its bookings are on Eurostar; a spokesman for another of the "big six" operators admitted that the service was "not selling as well as we had hoped". The danger is that, for them, the Eurostar may be more trouble than it is worth. True, the preview trip to Bourg St Maurice last March for tour operators and journalists was misleading – half-empty carriages and exceptional hospitality did induce a eupho-

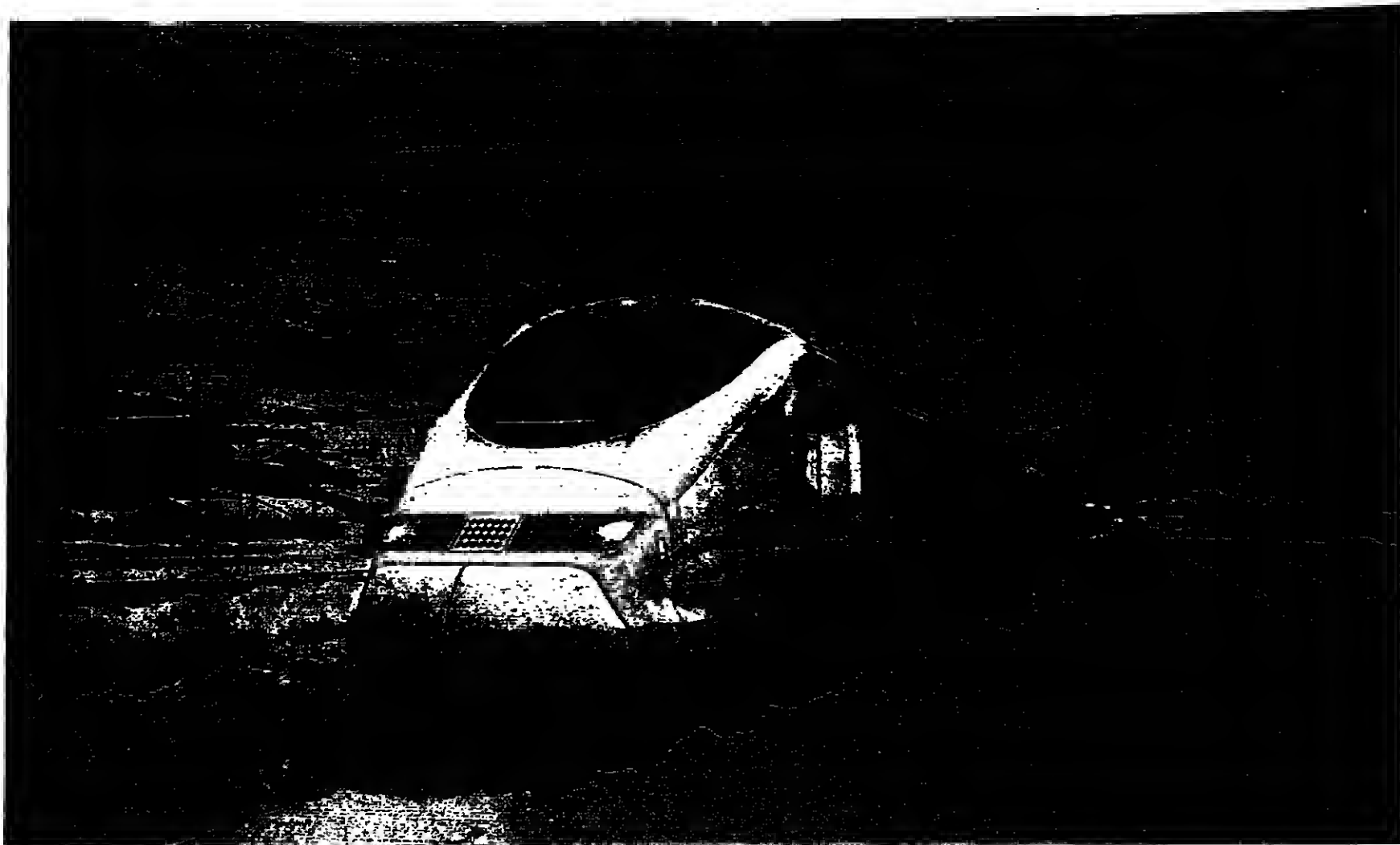
ria one does not normally associate with travel to a ski resort. And yes, eight hours is a long time to spend on a train, although with a book, a Walkman and a window seat, it is infinitely preferable to queuing, hauling skis and polluting the upper atmosphere with aviation fuel.

Certainly, it would be better if the trains ran at night, but with the cancellation of the "Euro-sleeper" contract in July, there are no sleeping cars which comply with Channel Tunnel fire regulations – and, anyway, high-speed tracks in France take such a pounding that they are closed at night for maintenance.

Nevertheless, the convenience and simplicity of the Eurostar service are seductive. You dump your skis in the train's luggage compartment at Waterloo and don't see them again until you are in the Alps – without, as Eurostar points out, having to

pay the fee of at least £12 that tour operators demand to guarantee your skis' transit by plane. Resort reps will travel on the train to offer advice, hand out piste maps and issue lift passes. And with the Eurostar's new fares, the train can compete on price with charter flights.

And at the other end, you can forget those loopy airport transfers. At Bourg St Maurice station you have only to change platforms to catch the funicular railway up to Les Arcs 1600, and Autocars Martin will run you up the dozen kilometres to La Rosière. Or, better still, you could take a taxi to explore the small village resorts such as Peisey, Pralognan and St François – they will be hoping that, despite the Eurostar's tentative start, the Good Skiing Guide is right in its prediction that within five years, 50 per cent of skiers travelling to the area will go by train.



Eurostar as you've never seen it before – take the Tunnel to the Alps

TEL: 0171 293 2222

TRAVEL: OVERSEAS, SKIING

FAX: 0171 293 2505

City Breaks

Surprise the one you love

Make it happen

City Breaks from £149 For 4 Nights

Paris, Amsterdam, Rome, Venice, Florence, Verona & Lake Garda

3, 4 and 7 night duration available

Departures November 1997 to October 1998

By Direct from Manchester, Gatwick and Stansted

TO BOOK DIRECT CALL 0541 525025

OR VISIT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT

Airtours

The Holiday Makers

Overseas Travel

Spoil yourself in unspoilt Bruges.

1 Night Break from £49*

Bruges is more alive than ever! This beautiful medieval city is filled with cultural events, historical squares, & top restaurants and pubs. Choose from 13 charming 3 or 4 star hotels in our '97 Bruges brochure.

Call reservations on: **0990 240 241**

or contact your local travel agent.

HOVERSPEED

TEL: 01990 240 241

Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA - A SPECIAL PLACE

CAPE TRAVEL is a small specialist tour operator with a big reputation and years of experience in arranging quality programmes for individual travellers in the Indian Ocean area.

Call the specialists now for details of an out-of-the-ordinary experience in this special place.

THE CAPE TRAVEL CO. LTD.

0181 943 4067 (Fax 0181 943 4086)

France

Disneyland Paris

AT MAKE BELIEVE PRICES

FROM 99 PER PERSON, includes 3 nights at the self-catering Davy Crockett Ranch, 2 day Theme Park Pass and a return ferry crossing. Valid from 25 September to 10 October for midweek stays and based on two adults and two children (3 to 11 years) in one car and one log cabin. Call Bridge Travel Service on 01992 456045 or see your local travel agent.

P&O European Ferries

HOLIDAYS

Disneyland Paris

*Supplements apply for Friday and Saturday nights.

Turkey

ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

...and it's FREE

SCOPE

0500 575 222

Meribel Courchevel

Family Skiing Holidays

Bigfoot Travel

CHAMONIX/ARGENTIERE

QUALITY ACCOM AND SERVICE - CHALETS, HOTELS, APARTS

WEEKENDS

Flexi Dates

01491 579601

ATOL 2781

AWAY BREAKS

PARIS FROM £119

AMSTERDAM FROM £139

0114 266 8806

FRANCE SPECIALS

0171 293 2222

Airport Parking

HEATHROW £4.95 per day

0171 293 2222

Balearics

VINTAGE SPAIN

0171 293 2222

Greece

Greek Islands Club

Discover the secrets of SARDINIA

Alghero

Olbia

27 September

FLIGHTS & 12N

ONE WEEK HOLIDAYS £219

Holiday Options 1st

01444 881414

CORNICIA PLACES

01932 220477

0181 995 9323

0181 995 9323

Germany

GERMAN TRAVEL CENTRE

0181 995 9323

Italy

DISNEYLAND PARIS

01992 456045

Portugal

0181 995 9323

Spain

0181 995 9323

India

ESCAPE TO INDIA THIS WINTER

and have CAPE TRAVEL, the market specialists for KERALA and SOUTH INDIA, arrange it for you.

2 weeks from £605. Call now for our brochure

THE CAPE TRAVEL CO. LTD 0181 943 4067 (FAX: 943 4086)

USA

NEW ENGLAND VACATIONS

0181 943 4067

India

0181 943 4067

French without tears

PLAN YOUR GA
Ency
£4.
SA
£1
SEE PAGE 37 IN THE INDEPENDENT M
The Librarian
Chance and the

French without tears

In response to competition from the US, French ski resorts are concentrating on flexibility and child-friendliness. Cathy Packe checks out the new developments.

Whereas the British head in their millions to France for summer holidays, there has been far less enthusiasm in recent years for skiers to choose the resorts of the French Alps. Odd, this, when you consider that France offers arguably the best skiing in Europe.

Most complaints about France seem to revolve around the lack of charm in many of the resorts. Many offer rooms which the modern tourist regards as too small; most hotels and apartment buildings were purpose-built, with often ghastly architecture out of keeping with the mountain terrain; and there is a lack of ambience in comparison with resorts in Switzerland and Austria. The *après-ski* has also been seen as poor, and often overpriced.

However, the weekly Eurostar train from Waterloo straight into the resorts (see opposite), the fact that the pound is still worth close to 10 francs, and upgraded accommodation, have made this the year to think about returning to France – particularly since skiing appears to be less popular among the French themselves. The great variety of terrain means a choice of resorts at all prices, and many UK tour operators are starting to offer trips to the smaller resorts as well as to the larger, better-known ones.

Each ski area in France covers a different mountain range: the Alps, which divide into the Rhône Alps and the southern Alps; the Pyrenees; the Massif Central; the Jura; and the Vosges. There are claimed to be 400 resorts grouped together in 25 interlinked ski areas, which have 4,000 lifts serving 6,000 pistes. It is now easy to put together an independent skiing trip, but a browse through the brochures gives an idea of market trends. The emphasis is on flexibility, better accommodation and new resorts, with increased attention to the needs of children.

While most operators continue to use weekend charter flights, Powder Byrnie's clients can use scheduled flights on any day of the week to the airports of Lyon and Geneva. Alternatively, the company will supply ferry tickets for those wanting to drive to the mountains, and book château hotels for overnight stays along the way.

The theme of flexibility is taken up by White Roc, which uses the link between Swissair and the Belgian airline Sabena to route regional flights from Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle via Brussels into Geneva.

One of the best offers for families with small children comes through Rhône-Alpes Tourism and the Maison de la

France. Twenty-seven French resorts are offering free accommodation for a week to children under 10 accompanied by two paying adults, for the week over Christmas and for three weeks immediately after New Year. Destinations include chic Megève, and the modern resort of Les Arcs.

Most operators have special programmes for children. Mark Warner is continuing the children's ski school established in La Plagne last year, and is extending it next season to Val d'Isère. Children aged three to 12 can have full- or half-day instruction from English-speaking instructors. Ski Esprit, which operates in some of the bigger resorts, is this year introducing snow rangers – qualified childminders who pick children up from ski school and supervise their lunch and afternoon activities, until parents collect them at 5pm. Eight-to-13-year-olds can go to the Cocoon Club, giving adults a chance to have dinner on their own. But none of these facilities is free; a cheaper option might be to leave the children at home.

But should you choose to leave the nanny at home, you can hire one through Powder Byrnie, to meet you in the UK before departure and be available throughout your trip.

Foreign competition is intense, so resorts cannot afford to stand still. Many French resorts have upgraded their lifts to reduce queues. Courchevel, though, is concentrating on promoting its overnight piste-grooming and giving skiers better daily information about weather conditions and the state of the pistes; this service has been on offer for some time in American ski areas, and reflects concern among French resorts about the number of skiers who are finding the Rockies as accessible and affordable as the Alps.

Accommodation in France has also been found wanting by skiers who have been to the US. This year Mark Warner is putting an emphasis on "Chalet hotels", with a chalet atmosphere, the extra sophistication of an à la carte restaurant, and a bar – so holiday-makers can escape standard fare from chalet girls who turn out not to be cordon bleu cooks. And Erna Low has taken over the apartment agency Pierre & Vacances, which means a chance to take advantage of local produce, or to try out resort restaurants.

The variety of resorts in France is one of the main selling-points for skiers, and this is particularly relevant for people skiing in groups of mixed ability. Most big resorts have so many different slopes that beginners will find something they can cope with, and those looking for advanced mogul fields will never get bored.

The Trois Vallées – which in fact consists of four valleys – is the most popular area in France, and takes in the resorts of Méribel, Courchevel, Val Thorens and Les Menuires.

Courchevel itself is really four resorts, ranging between the chic and expensive Courchevel 1850 to the downmarket Le Praz. The whole thing is linked by a system of 200 lifts, which spill out skiers on to 600km of slopes.

Most of the big operators offer holidays in the Trois Vallées, and Meriski is one of the specialists. Its newest acquisition, the Lodge at Burgin, is advertised as a combination of small hotel and chalet. This year, for the first time, Meriski is venturing away from Méribel. The company has expanded into Courchevel and Val d'Isère, offering a collection of alpine hotels. The emphasis here is on charm and authenticity.

Portes du Soleil is a conglomeration of 13 resorts, of which the best known and most popular is Avoriaz. The drawback to this whole area is that it is not as high as many others, so the snow conditions are less reliable. Morzine, which is part of the complex, is offering floodlit night-skiing next season, which, if weather conditions permit, is a good way of prolonging the amount of skiing time in a short holiday, assuming you have the stamina.

The biggest trend of the winter, though, abetted by Eurostar, is an expansion of the repertoire of resorts. Thomson, for example, is going to Pra Loup for the first time, while

specialist operators are focusing on the smaller resorts. La Rosière, with its gentle slopes, most of which are above the tree line, is served by Erna Low, and this year for the first time by Ski Esprit. As Stephen Wood suggests opposite, the new Eurostar service could change the focus of skiing away from the larger resorts and towards the village France that most of us want to visit.

Snowfile
Erna Low: 0171-584 2841
Maison de la France/Rhône Alpes Tourisme: 0891 244123
Mark Warner: 0171-393 3168
Powder Byrnie: 0181-871 3300
Ski Esprit: 01252 616789
Thomson: 0990 329 329
White Roc: 0171-792 1188



French resorts hope to stem the slide Photograph: Robert Harding Picture Agency

Two on a slippery slope

Learning to ski in a week may sound impossible, but Helen and Peter Rodriguez tried it – and lived to tell the tale.

They seemed a nice enough couple. Then the verbal avalanche began. Before I could slalom away I was deluged with the joys of powder snow – "better than sex" – and the beauty of the Val d'Isère. "I can't believe you've never been". Yawn. Two weeks later, against our better judgement, my husband and I were booked on to a learn-to-ski week at La Plagne in France. Deeked out head to toe in C&A, we laid bets on who'd break a leg first.

After picking up our hired skis and boots, we trudged off for our first lesson with the ski school *Oxygène*, run by brothers Bertrand and Pierre de Monvallier. Their aim is to impart a love of the sport. Did they succeed?

Helen's diary

Day one, and Peter was already looking grim. It wasn't the prospect of skiing; it was the sight of the male ski instructors, clearly hand-picked for their looks as well as their skills. I, on the other hand, had no complaints.

Stereotypes were shattered when the most handsome and French looking of the bunch opened his mouth: "All right mate?" He was a Brit, from Norfolk. *Quel dommage*.

Six of us were taken to the nursery slopes by Olivier, whose first task was to teach us the most important lesson of all: how to stop.

"Crazy," the rest of us muttered jealously as two-year-olds overtook us on the nursery slopes. Then we learned the difficult business

of turning. Stick a hip out, put the weight on one leg, then the other. It could have been the hokey cokey. Olivier was not impressed. "No, no, no, you save that for ze deesco."

Day two, and having mastered turns and stops Peter and I were promoted to Patrick Gosoli's class. Patrick used to be in the French national slalom team and he had high hopes for us. Suddenly we found ourselves on green and blue runs with real skiers. Just as suddenly I forgot how to turn and stop, and had a crisis of confidence as snowboarders whizzed past me. Now I know why instructors call beginners *jambon*. My legs were soon so bruised, they looked like hams.

Day three, and everything was starting to click. As our group of six whooshed along Patrick kept saying: "I am so happy" at the sight of us trailing competently behind him. Never before had I felt so elated; I never dreamed I would be able to ski after just three days. I could just see myself on *Ski Sunday*. Just before lunch Patrick rewarded us by taking us to a mountain café for wine and panoramic views. It was only as we left that we realised why. A horribly steep red run awaited us – sheer ice, and no way to get down apart from Dutch courage. Another crisis of confidence struck as fear reduced my legs to jelly. "Turn, Hélène, turn, turn, turn," he repeated, as I stood rooted to the spot before falling all the way down. Whose idea was this holiday?

But my most spectacular fall was that night, en route to a restaurant. Without skis I performed a surprise triple salko followed by a double toe loop before landing on my nose. My companions awarded me a Torvall and Dean six out of six.

Day four saw me back on the green slopes before class trying to recover confidence and practise technique. For the first time we were going to ski with poles.

By the afternoon, fatigue had left me lagging behind the rest of the group. I kept falling over, and Patrick took pity on me. For the final half hour I grabbed on to his waist for dear life – at least, that's what I told my husband – as he guided me down the mountain.

Day five, the best day yet. I sped ahead, perfecting my now parallel turns, and even attempted the "Hollywood" slalom – an icy, steep racetrack with poles you are meant to whip around but more often than not demolish.

Thin mountain tracks no longer filled me with dread, as I kept my eyes ahead and not on my skis. After one impressive manoeuvre (ie, I didn't fall over) Patrick awarded me his ski instructor's medal and insisted I lead the group. I promptly fell over again.

Day six – the last day, and the whole group was already planning their next trip. Tired but elated, we all hugged Patrick like an old, dear friend, embarrassing him with our heartfelt thanks. Now, can I bore you with the joys of powder snow? Or what about that time I...

Peter's diary

How could I have ever agreed to this? Hurling down a mountain on two planks of wood, for fun. I must be mad.

The massive queue at the check-in at *Gotwick* didn't do much for my morale, either, but there was certainly a buzz amongst the group of travellers dressed in what looked like outrageously bright shell suits.

The hotel, when we finally arrived, was not at all as pretentious as I had feared. I was soon swept into conversation, and had a drink in my hand before you could say "bottoms up".

On the first day of lessons most of us men huddled together – huddling in fear of our new instructors, who we thought would have us in agony, crashing down the slopes of the *Kinder Run* at breakneck speed. But the first day was relaxed and remarkably easy, as we rolled about in the snow. They soon had me branded as a nutter; no sooner had I put on skis than I took out one of the instructors: we both crashed to the ground in a flurry of scything skis and loud grunts.

The next couple of days went by in a white flurry as we exhausted every ounce of strength. The instructors carefully helped us through our morning warm-ups, ensuring that the lessons of the previous day were reinforced before inflicting upon us a new day's rituals. At lunch, our group, which had formed

some sort of bond (probably because as we fell our respective Velcro straps stuck together) would limp to a café for lunch – more often than not an orgy of cheese, elbows and beer.

Then back on to the drag lift (a pole with a button on the end, on which to rest your bottom as you are dragged up the mountain). This, for an ungainly male like myself, can test a man's masculinity to the max. By the fourth day our instructor had dubbed us "the helicopters" owing to the way we held our ski poles and thrashed the air. Somehow, though, Patrick, our ever-vigilant instructor, retained his faith in our ability to learn. And after three days of falling over we were suddenly liberated, sailing downhill on wings of carbon-reinforced plastic. Our hearts pounded as we sped down in a rush of adrenaline and laughter.

One week at the Hotel Christina at La Plagne centre costs £204, inclusive of breakfast, high tea and dinner with wine. The "learn to ski" week operates throughout the season in La Plagne. Included are six full days of lessons, ski and boot hire, and one-week lift pass. Total: £250 (for details, call Mark Warner on 0171-393 3168).

SKI TIPS

Every week a simple tip to improve your skiing, from Chris Exall, instructor/winter sport consultant.

It's better to spend more time skiing well on easier slopes than badly on more difficult ones. Practice a range of techniques on runs which are within your ability before you try them on more challenging runs.

PLAN YOUR GARDEN

4 RHS Encyclopedias for £4.99 each
SAVE £140

SEE PAGE 37 IN TODAY'S THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE

The Literary Guild

Quality, Choice and Discount on EVERY book

LOW ROAD

Fly with Easyjet from Luton to Nice (€98 return) then take the train via Marseilles to Briançon. Stock up there on local produce, which you can turn into a meal at your destination. You reach the resort of Serre-Chevalier by gondola (the ski lift variety, not the Venetian type). Make your way to the youth hostel

(bookable by the week, 00 33 4 92 24 74 54). It's basic but cosy, and has cooking facilities. The choice of cafés and bars is small, so you may wish you had picked up a couple of bottles of vin de pays. Otherwise, after a day on the piste, treat yourself to a vin chaud at Jacques A. or a few brandies at le Grand Alpe.

HIGH ROAD

Take a business class flight to Geneva on Swissair (0171-434 7300) for £437 return, and hire a limousine to take you the 80km to Megève. The 16th-century cow shed known as Les Fermes de Marie (00 33 4 50 99 03 10) may not seem like the most enticing of accommodation, but has been so luxuriously

converted that you will find it hard to drag yourself out into the snow. A superior room costs around £250 per night. Take cocktails at the Alpettes, reached by a sled from the top of the cable car, and then have dinner at the former Rothschild home, the Chalet du Mont d'Arbois (00 33 4 50 21 25 03).



One of you can fly for free

Not only do our all-inclusive holidays offer all meals, sports & tuition, children's clubs and entertainment, but on certain dates in September and October, two people can fly for the price of one from London to selected Club Med destinations in Ibiza, Turkey, Sicily and Greece. A saving of up to £257.

Club Med Start Living.

RESERVATIONS: 01771-581 1161 BROCHURE REQUEST: 01455 852 202

DEPARTURE DATES: 18/09-21/09, 25/10, GREECE: 8/10, TURKEY: 18/10, SICILY: 27/9, 4/11, 18/10. OFFER SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. NOT VALID FOR INFANTS UNDER 2 YEARS.

6/BITAIN

Costumed interpreters are bringing the past alive in museums all over the country. Helen Chappell reports on history's fresh plan of attack.

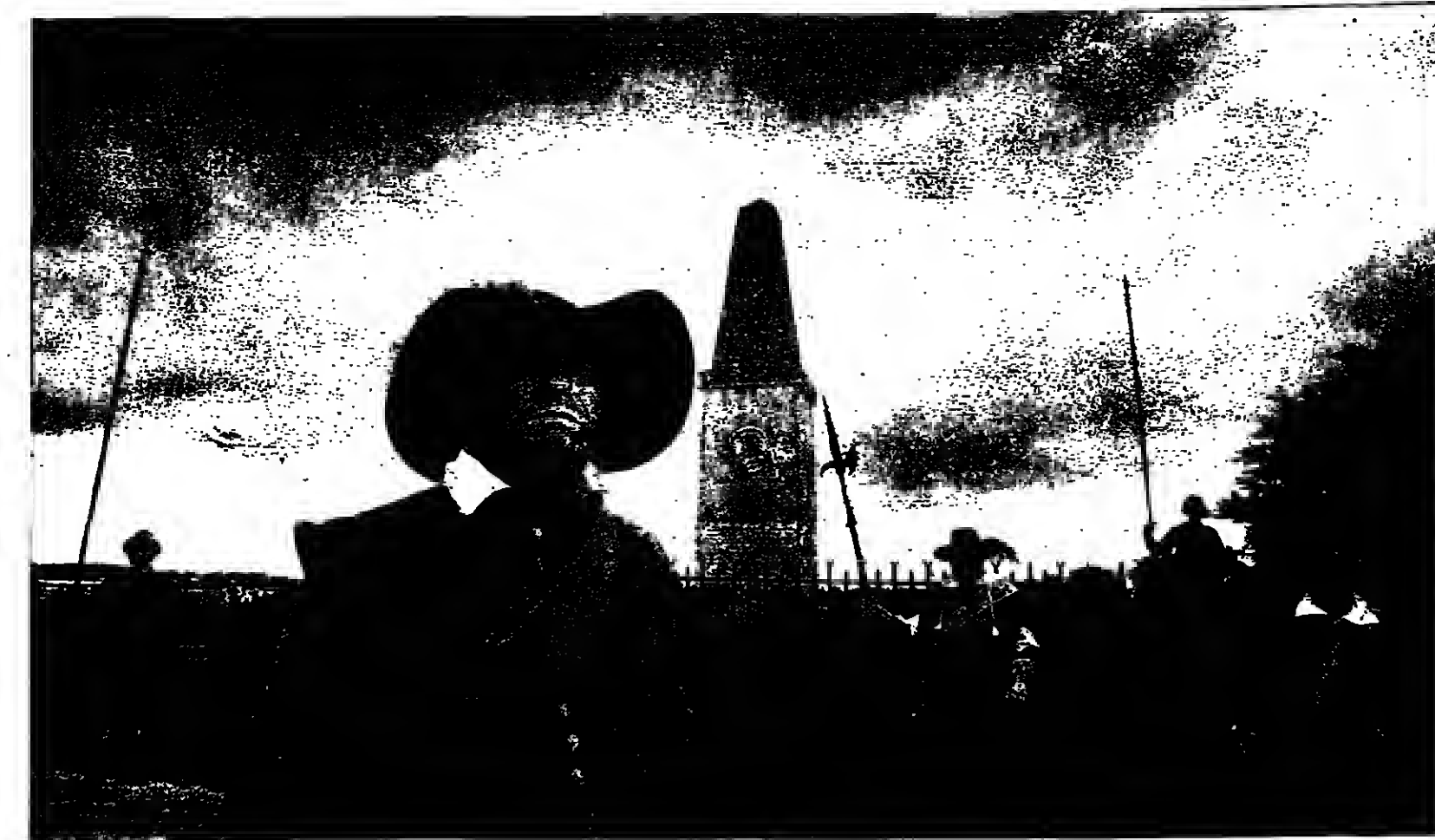
We live in interesting times. This summer, terrifying violence has broken out in the streets of Stirling in Scotland, where militant nationalists in leather and plaid have been clashing with British soldiers. Explosions and gunfire have stunned innocent onlookers at Bath, Bolsover and Battle Abbey. These are high old times, in fact, for costumed re-enactors – that strange new breed of weekend hobbyists and Equity card performers with a missionary zeal to “bring history alive” at castles, museums and heritage sites across the country. Their armies have been slugging it out in Scotland to mark the 700th anniversary of Wallace’s victory at Stirling Bridge, and defending Fishguard against Napoleonic soldiers invading Wales for the first time since 1797.

But any weekend of the year you will find them at it somewhere off the motorway: Norman weddings, Jacobean stand-up comics, Regency duellists, and Viking encampments with authentic displays of bottom-scratching. Museums and historic houses, too, team with the living dead. Dry-as-dust guidebooks and tour guides reeling off dates are no longer enough for us, it seems. We want to shake hands with our ancestors, and experience for ourselves the look, the sounds and the smells.

Now the make-believe battles of the weekend warriors have sparked off an intellectual feud. Bad-tempered articles in museum journals question the historical accuracy and educational value of costumed events. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, has launched an attack on curators who “obscure the importance” of the objects in their care “with interpretative, theme park ... displays”. It is not the job of heritage sites and museums, he fumes, to “ape Madame Tussauds or Disneyland”. Are costumed interpreters sweating it out in their replica corsets doing more harm than good?

Not according to Justin Hall, alias Sir Justin de Fraix of Lion Rampant, a medieval re-enactment society.

“Our weapons, costumes, music and dances are as accurate as possible,” he says. “We learn to fight properly in our tournaments and combats – we get gasps from the crowd.” Mr Hall, an ex-soldier, now a cus-



Cavaliers, cads and codpieces

tom officer, admits to a strong romantic streak, however. “I believe we all do it because we’re reincarnated medieval knights. I have a burning passion for the era. I love all the dressing up and living in a time warp.” A fellow medieval, Suzy Ashby, insists that the audience loves it too. “People ask us all sorts of questions: Is it hot in that armour? How do you go to the loo? They get completely carried away by the fighting, screaming and cheering us on.”

It may be fun, but is it educational? Howard Giles, head of special events at English Heritage, which puts on most of the big UK re-enactments, thinks so. “Some critics will always cry pastiche and call it plastic history,” he says. “But we won’t tolerate cavaliers smoking cigarettes, or Viking chieftains with cans of Coke.”

The huge surge in popularity of these alfresco costumed events surprises even their organisers. “It’s quite amazing,” says Howard Giles. “There are more than 400 groups out there reviving every era, from Romans to the Second World War.” When English Heritage tried out such events in

A FUTURE DIARY FOR PAST EVENTS

Sundays, 12 October and 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November, Edinburgh Castle: An afternoon of living history and drama. Meet Sir Walter Scott, Deacon Brodie, and body-snatchers Burke and Hare, who re-create events of the past. Starts 1pm (details, 0131-668 8830/8686).

Saturday-Sunday, 20-21 September, Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire: Redcoat festival celebrates the soldiers’ history, including re-enacted battles of Naseby, 1645; Culloden, 1746; and Waterloo, 1815. Plus living history encampments. From noon (01246 823349).

Saturday-Sunday, 11-12 October, Framlingham, Suffolk: Songs and Surgery – 17th-century doctors demonstrate gory cures for Civil War wounds and illnesses, while their patients are

soothed by music of the time. From noon (01728 724189).

Friday 4 to Monday 7 December, Bishop’s Old Palace, Lincoln: A medieval Christmas with costumed carols, games, song and dance. Yuletide pagan rituals investigated. 10-4pm (01522 527468).

Saturday-Sunday, 6-7 December, Queen’s House, Greenwich, London SE10: A Stuart-era frost fair re-created – come and see King Charles II and take part in his revels, including a court masque, dances, carols and the making of festive treats and decorations. (0181-858 4422).

NB Most outdoor re-enactments finish in early October.

1985 (with just three venues) there was an instant rise in visitors and membership. Today it holds 600 costumed events a year all over England (Scotland does its own), ranging from a couple of minstrels strumming lutes, to this summer’s staging of 2,000 years of military history at Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire, with a cast of thousands and a budget of £30,000 plus. Though it pays only expenses to its amateur groups, the annual events budget has risen to £750,000.

Costume re-enactors started in the US in the early Sixties with a handful of 18th-century redcoat soldiers at Williamsburg and the Plymouth Plantation in Virginia. They first took hold in Britain with the founding of the Sealed Knot civil war society in 1968. Now almost every nation in Europe has got the dressing-up bug and costumed armies travel to each other’s country to fight a friendly battle or two. English Heritage has not been alone in seeing the money-spinning potential of this passion for the past. A bizarre new occupation – the paid, costumed interpreter – has also arrived. Some are ex-schoolteachers and ac-

Weekend warriors: groups such as Sealed Knot bring the past alive in realistic battle re-enactments
Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

demics; some are resting actors; many have attended a “heritage interpretation” course. Most weekends, James Arnott can be spotted dressed as a Georgian courtier, strolling languidly in the garden or great hall of a stately home. He has a postgraduate diploma in heritage interpretation and a lofty disdain for some of the amateur element in his line of work. “We’ve had computer programmers in historic uniform bashing each other over the head for some time,” he says, “but I’m trying to give the public a more close-up, hands-on experience.” Inside Marble Hill House in west London, for example, Mr Arnott and his company Beaux Stratagem hold a lady’s levée (with corset-lacing demonstration), sing baroque songs, and take tea with exquisite gentility. James has worked at Disneyland in Florida, and has no time for such a “Mary Poppins meets My Fair Lady” approach to history. “I’m picky about details; all our costumes are copied from paintings of the day ... There’s really no excuse for getting it wrong. All the evidence is there in the diaries, prints and plays of the time.” His greatest frustration is the elitist attitude of heritage curators in the Sir Nicholas Goodison mould. “Some of them think you’ll take the place over, cause a visitor blockage ... We try to get them on our side – ask for their help and ideas, and use their expert knowledge in our presentation. Often their remit is to preserve a house in aspic. Our audiences say we bring it alive.”

Academics and puritans may sneer, but the time-warped bandwagon rolls on regardless. Even the conservative National Trust has now begun to stage costumed events, such as the 18th-century pleasure garden “revels” this August at Studley Royal water gardens, in Yorkshire. Of the major London museums, only the British Museum and V&A are still holding out against Roman soldiers or Victorian flower-sellers popping up in their galleries. “The public doesn’t give a toss whether we put professional actors, amateurs or academics inside the costumes,” says Liz Denton, of the Interpretation Unit at the Museum of London, “as long as they have done their homework. There’s still a lot of snobbery which says that museums are only there for scholarly research. We’re not trying to turn the place into a theme park. We believe our costumed actors help to demystify history for families and school parties – giving them solid information in a positive, fun way.”

Like it or not, the costumed ghost from the past has a bright future.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

A fabulous fortnight!

I came back from my Saga holiday two weeks older and ten years younger...


... Wherever your holiday takes you, Saga takes care of all the details, so you can have the time of your life.

Service, quality and unbeatable value are just some of the hallmarks. So, whether it's a hotel stay, coach tour or cruise, our friendly staff, carefully chosen accommodation and well-planned itineraries ensure you enjoy a well-earned break.

45 years of listening to comments and suggestions has taught us just what our holidaymakers expect.

That's why so many people book with us again and again!

If you are aged 50 or over, call our 24-hour brochure request line now.

SAGA 

FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

FREE 0800 300 456 Ex A488

Please return to: Saga Holidays Ltd, FREEPOST (NT2710), Peterlee X, Co. Durham SR8 2HU. You do not need a stamp.

Please send me the following brochures:

Worldwide	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe & the Mediterranean	Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____
USA	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Stays	Address _____
Canada	<input type="checkbox"/> Coach Tours	Town _____
Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom	County _____
Cruises	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Stays	Postcode _____
Ocean	<input type="checkbox"/> Coach Holidays	Date of Birth (Mr) ____/____/19____
River	<input type="checkbox"/> Tours	Date of Birth (Mrs/Ms) ____/____/19____
Saga Rose (Exclusively to Saga)	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Centre	

Saga Holidays Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass information to these companies to enable them to do so.

AN INAUGURAL OFFER
RETURN TO RAJASTHAN

Not everyone wants to go on a whistle-stop tour around India, getting up at dawn, packing and unpacking every day. Nor are some of those people contented by the beauty of the place when balanced with the discomforts and the lack of facilities in the resort areas. This tour therefore is designed to be leisurely and comfortable within the context of India and aims to explore three major areas in depth, allowing sufficient time for independent sightseeing or simply to relax in the shade of a banyan tree, perhaps in a beautiful garden or watching the inimitable sunset.

ITINERARY
The itinerary commences with a flight from London Gatwick to Agra for a three-night stay at the Clarks Shiraz, the base for optional visits to the Taj Mahal and Red Fort. From Agra travel west to Fatehpur Sikri where a short visit is made before proceeding to Jaipur and the Rajputana Sheraton Hotel for a two-night stay. In Jaipur optional visits to the Amber Fort, the Palace of the Winds, the Observatory built by Jai Singh, and the city palace will be offered. Continue the exploration of Rajasthan by travelling to Delhi, where the route allows a glimpse of the Indian countryside, for a two-night stay at the Siddarth Hotel. During the stay optional visits will be made to both Old and New Delhi and in particular the Red Fort and the Lutyens-designed centre of the city. Finally return to Agra for the Monarch Airlines flight to London Gatwick airport.

Visiting Agra, Delhi, Fatehpur Sikri & Jaipur

7 NIGHTS ON TOUR FROM £495

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
Thursdays 1997/98 - per person in a twin room
1997 Sep 30 £495 - Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 £505
Nov 4, 11, 18, 25 £515 - Dec 2, 9 £515
Dec 23, 30 £570
1998 Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 £515 - Feb 3, 10, 17, 24 £550 - Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 £550
Apr 7 £570 - Apr 14, 21, 28 £515
Single room supplement £165

Price includes: return air travel, transfers and transportation, accommodation with breakfast, UK departure tax, local guides and boats.
Not included: travel insurance, visa procurement, overseas airport tax, optional excursions, tips.
All prices are subject to change. Our current Conditions of Booking (a copy of which will be sent at your request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE
21 Dossel Square, London NW1 6GG
Travel Protection Ltd, 0171-616 1000
Internet: <http://www.vjv.co.uk>
Our offices are open for telephone reservations from 9am to 6pm weekdays & from 9am to 5pm at weekends. For personal advice our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays only.

THE INDEPENDENT

Madeira
the 'Garden Island'
and Lisbon

Amazing value - 6 days from only £399 per person (£10 Air Passenger Duty not included)

We are delighted to offer you a unique opportunity to combine a holiday in Madeira with a visit to Portugal's colourful and historic capital city, Lisbon. Two nights are spent in Lisbon, a city of distinctive character and charm. Discover the fascinating old quarters along with fashionable shopping and distinctive architecture.

Three nights are spent on the 'Garden Island' of Madeira which abounds with colour and exotic vegetation. You will be overwhelmed by the breathtaking beauty of waterfalls cascading down mountains. Optional excursions will help you to enjoy the island to its full - visit Sintra, jewel of the Euxine coastline and the magnificent flower market in Funchal or perhaps take an excursion to Pico de Barcelos for one of the finest views of Funchal. No matter where you go on the island, you will be rewarded by its beauty.

These holidays have been arranged in conjunction with Festive Holidays Ltd, ABTA V106X, ATOL 2172
Reg in England 198967 Newspaper Publishing plc.
Reg Office: 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

Departures in February and March 1998

Send for your brochure today, call our brochure hotline on **0990 55 33 55** or return the coupon below to:

INDEPENDENT LISBON & MADEIRA OFFER
FESTIVE HOLIDAYS LTD, PO BOX 100, NORTH PLAGE, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL50 4DY.

INDEPENDENT LISBON & MADEIRA OFFER

Please forward me a brochure:

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

☐ Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing plc or from companies approved by Newspaper Publishing plc.

INDIAN

Butter-m

ATO Qual Holi

ATO

For a unique range of real holi that are fully-bu flexible and definitely origi book ATO!

For a FREE copy of ATO Directory listing all companies, please tick 0181 607 4000

ALL ATO C

DAYS OUT

Butter-making, rat skeletons and picnics in the orchard

The Drinkwater family travelled back a century in time at Cogges Manor Farm Museum in Witney, Oxfordshire. Catherine Stubbings talked to them afterwards.

The pace is slow at Cogges Manor Farm. A couple of Jersey cows lazily chew the cud, pigs and piglets lie sprawled across the straw in their sties and an old donkey gently nods off to the sound of children playing in the orchard. The dairymaid wanders through the farmyard, introducing animals to visitors and saving hens and ducks from enthusiastic young poultry-batters.

This 20-acre farm is run as it would have been in Victorian times, with traditional breeds of animals, staff in authentic costume and not a tractor in sight. A few of the Cotswold stone outbuildings are used to show farm implements and machinery, where hens peck around the old seed drills.

Nestling in the water meadows beside the busy market town of Witney, the Manor at Cogges is in stark contrast to the housing estates around it, yet surprisingly unspoilt by them. Although the charming house dates from the 13th century in parts, it is presented as it would have been at the turn of the 20th century, when the Mawle family owned it as part of a 500-acre estate. The simply furnished rooms have flagged stone floors, paneled walls and many original features.

Upstairs a nursery and bedroom tell more about the life of the Mawle family. Another room shows rare 17th-century painted panelling. One bedroom is an activity centre where children can play traditional games or dress up in Victorian costume.

Throughout the house the smell of baking wafts up from the kitchen, where the cook makes cakes, pies and biscuits.

There is nothing particularly rare or remarkable here, but it is a lovely, low-key history lesson. Rural life at the turn of the century is perfectly shown.

The visitors

Philippa Drinkwater took her children Harriet, eight, Charlie, five, and William, two.

Philippa: We all had a very happy day. Cogges was relaxed, low key and not commercial. William loved all the animals and the older two enjoyed the house. Charlie seemed to enjoy the historical aspects; he was very worried about the maid getting cold, having to sleep in the attic.

We arrived just in time to see the Jersey cow

being milked and the eggs being collected. Then we looked around the farmyard and barns. In the house, someone was busy in the kitchen making apple pies with apples from the garden and eggs and butter off the farm. She cooked on an old, solid fuel range and handed out biscuits and apples to hungry children. We had a lovely picnic in the orchard, then the children joined the storyteller under the apple tree.

It is not huge, but there was just enough to keep the children going. The displays of old farmyard implements and machinery didn't really appeal to them because, with sharp blades involved, one can't expect to work anything. However, it was nice to tie in a little local history with the display on Witney blankets. I did feel it could have been a little more hands-on.

The activity room was good, with something for everyone: Gothic arches to be built, barns to be constructed, puzzles, games and some wonderful dressing-up clothes, complete with Victorian face masks. The old-fashioned kitchen garden was full of all the sorts of things I would love to grow: apple trees, artichokes, pumpkins, lavender, flowers for cutting.

Harriet: It was quite a big house, with all the rooms as they would have been in the olden days. I liked the room where they showed what they had found when they were restoring the house. There were lots of drawers with old wallpaper and plaster and things. There were also lots of things that they had

found under the floorboards, like buttons, coins, jewellery and a horrid rat skeleton.

I found the farmyard and machinery a little bit boring but I liked the house. In the activity room I built a barn by putting the timbers together. It looked quite like the one where we had our drinks.

Charlie: It was not very big, just a house, a farmyard, an orchard, a few fields and a little wood, but I had a good time. I liked the farmyard best, with all the animals: cows, pigs, rabbits, funny hens with fluffy feet, a donkey, horses and some cats.

I sort of know what it would have been like in the olden days, but you had to live then to know what it was really like. There would have been no electricity, so they had candles and lanterns instead of lights. There was no television, so in the evenings they had to read or talk or play, and the girls had to sew or knit.

The people who work here all wear olden-day clothes. They are very nice, but they don't talk much.

William liked the farm puzzles in the activity room.

The deal

Getting there: Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Church Lane, Witney (01993 703056) is signposted off the A40. There is a free car park a short walk from the museum and disabled parking on site. Opening times: March-2 November, Tuesday to Friday, 10.30am-5.30pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon-5pm.

Admission: adults £3, children (5-16) £1.50, OAP £1.75, family (two adults, two children) £8.

Access: Limited for wheelchairs; some uneven ground and steps on site, especially in the house. Tape commentary and history file for Manor House first-floor displays. Call in advance for help during your visit.

Dogs: on lead in gardens, not allowed in the house. Events: Daily events such as milking, pig feeding, work with the horse and storytelling are listed on a board at the entrance. Butter-making can be seen most Sunday mornings and there are regular lace-making and spinning demonstrations. Special weekends are 6-7 September, steam-threshing, 5 October, harvest home, 11-12 October, rag rug weekend, 6-7 December, Advent weekend 11am-4pm.

Food: Small cafeteria serves light meals, snacks, teas, home-made cakes. Children's meal: roll, juice and fromage fraise, £1.50.

Shop: Small but imaginative, selling local crafts, toys, souvenirs, Witney blankets and fruit, vegetables and eggs from the farm.

Toilets: Good clean facilities.



Donkey's years: Cogges farm is a trip back in time to rural Victoriana Photograph: Tom Pilsten

TEL: 0171 293 2222

TRAVEL: BROCHURES '97/98

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Look for the AITO logo when booking your holiday - a promise of Quality, Choice and Security. For a FREE copy of the Directory of Real Holidays, listing all AITO Member Companies, please call 0181 - 607 9080.

<p>Travel</p> <p>Our new winter brochure incorporates Advent Christmas and New Year. We offer a wide range of city breaks to Vienna, Salzburg, Prague and Budapest and new for 1997 winter holidays for the skier and the non-skier.</p> <p>Call Austria Travel on 0171 222 2430 for a copy of the brochure</p>	<p>Eilat on the Red Sea</p> <p>An extensive range of hotels from luxury to self-catering in Israel's Red Sea winter sun resort. Including scheduled EL AL flights from Heathrow and Manchester. Optional excursions to Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Petra.</p> <p>Plus "Desert Trailblazer" adventure holidays with the Bedouins in the Negev, scuba diving and windsurfing lessons and swimming with the dolphins.</p> <p>SUPERSTAR HOLIDAYS - 0645 125847 BROCHURE HOTLINE 01233 211203</p>	<p>PMANGA</p> <p>Barwell Leisure are the world's leading operator to La Manga and the Murcia region. Offering unbeatable packages on sporting, leisure and family breaks.</p> <p>This region of Spain enjoys a magnificent climate and is home to Europe's premier sports and leisure resort, La Manga Club.</p> <p>NEW for '97, Jerez, the HEART of Spain.</p> <p>24-hour brochure line 0181 397 4411 ASTA VISA 2149</p>	<p>ASIATRAVEL</p> <p>The Tailor-made Holiday Specialist</p> <p>Call Asiatravel Travel for our last minute specials brochure, featuring discounts of up to 15% on holidays throughout Asia.</p> <p>Tel: 01483 730808 Fax: 01483 721919</p> <p>Quote ref: LMS-IND</p>	<p>Frontier Ski</p> <p>Frontier Ski has a huge variety of ski and non-ski holidays to Canada. Scheduled flights, daily departures. Tailor-made holidays at package holiday prices.</p> <p>Ring 0171 930 5434 for this brochure or 0181 776 8709 for expert advice.</p> <p>ASTA AITO IATA</p>
<p>Italy</p> <p>Imagine 3 nights sampling the splendour of Rome from £235, the magic of Venice from £273 or Florence from just £222.</p> <p>Escorted coach tours to Sicily, Puglia and the Riviera di Ulisse, 3 nights, full board from £289.</p> <p>Call the brochure line NOW 0171 605 7500</p>	<p>Somak</p> <p>AFRICA & INDIA</p> <p>The thrill of safari, the wonders of India, the colours of Egypt, the romance of the Indian Ocean islands and so much more.</p> <p>For a copy of our quality brochure or tailor-made holidays contact: Somak Holidays</p> <p>Telephone 0151 423 3000</p>	<p>Simply Ari</p> <p>Quality chalet holidays in Europe's top resorts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Courchevel, Méribel, La Plagne, Val d'Isère, St Anton and Verbier. ★ Friendly, personal service. ★ Excellent childcare facilities. ★ Fabulous food. <p>For more information and a brochure please call: 0181 742 2541</p>	<p>directory</p> <p>AITO</p> <p>Over 150 specialist tour operators offering a dazzling array of holiday ideas in destinations throughout the world.</p>	<p>AITO SKI OPERATORS</p> <p>Offering that little bit extra on every sort of snow-based holiday.</p> <p>0181 607 9080</p>

AITO

THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOUR OPERATORS

For a unique range of real holidays that are fully-bonded, flexible and definitely original - book AITO!

For a FREE copy of the AITO Directory listing all member companies, please telephone **0181 607 9080**

The Family Skiing Specialist

It is ski-ist, 8 day vacations with qualified guides in Scotland English speaking ski school for 5-10 year olds

Adventures Wild, afternoon water slide

Child care guarantee

Natural ski areas in France and Switzerland

No weekly programme

01252 616789

AITO ASTA VISA 14 ATOL 2006 www.ski-espert.co.uk

CITALIA'S ITALY

Travel by rail, sea or road

Romantic Sorrento • Fascinating Sicily

Unspoiled Sardinia • Enchanting Tuscany

Historic Venice

and much more in our 1998 Made in Italy Brochure.

Brochure Ref: 105891

01235 824354

Citalia

The Italian Holiday Specialists

CANARY ISLANDS SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND MADEIRA

Paradise, country houses and lovely in "undiscovered" Spain, Mallorca and Canaries, Citybreaks, Fly-Drive, Coach tours and flexible tailor-made options. Plus Portugal and Madeira's Fountains and Hotels.

NEW! MADEIRA AND CANARIES CRUISING

For a free brochure call: 0171 828 6023 or 0161 848 8680

Mandi Color Holidays

For a further selection of 'Travel brochures' please see our Travel pullout on 28 September in 'The Independent on Sunday'

THE INDEPENDENT Holidays '97

BROCHURE REPLY SERVICE

To receive up to 8 of the brochures featured, please indicate the number of each brochure in the boxes below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

Please return to:

Independent on Sunday, Travel Brochures '97, Unit 1B, Mitcham Industrial Estate, Streatham Road, Mitcham CR4 2AA

Coupons to arrive by 6th October 1997

Or fax your request on 0181 640 0673

0181 607 9080

ALL AITO COMPANIES ARE FULLY BONDED FOR YOUR PROTECTION

TEL: 0171 293 2222

OVERSEAS

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

(incl. taxes)	one way	return	one way	return	one way	return		
SYDNEY	£236	£589	NEW YORK	£128	£170	CARIBBEAN	£186	£186
PERTH	£229	£591	BOSTON	£148	£170	MEXICO CITY	£251	£352
CAIRNS	£236	£589	CHICAGO	£157	£185	INDIA	£175	£336
AUCKLAND	£263	£659	FLORIDA	£175	£255	JOBURG	£199	£329
BANGKOK	£218	£374	LOS ANGELES	£202	£282	CAPE TOWN	£190	£349
HONG KONG	£249	£418	SAN FRANCISCO	£202	£282	HARARE	£225	£413
SINGAPORE	£242	£380	LAS VEGAS	£221	£286	NAIROBI	£224	£373
BEIJING	£253	£424	DENVER	£276	£286	DUBAI	£182	£237
TOKYO	£251	£229	TORONTO	£157	£185	CAIRO	£148	£242
	£311	£549	VANCOUVER	£258	£286	AROUND THE WORLD		£377

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £31 • AFRICA £31 • PACIFIC £40 • ASIA £27
USA CAR HIRE FROM £12 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

All our travel centres are open Mon-Sat 9-6pm • Fri 9-7pm • Sun 10-5pm

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

SHOPPING SPECIAL

VISIT THE MALL OF AMERICA

RETURN FLIGHTS TO MINNEAPOLIS WITH
2 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION FROM £279*

*price per person based on twin share

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • RAILWAYS • AIRWAYS

Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide
travel, Trailfinders is your one stop
travel shop.Trailfinders offers more low cost
flights to more destinations than
anyone. Experts in airfares since
1978, we can tailor-make your very
own package with up to 65% discount
on hotels and car hire worldwide.FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE
TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE
CALL 0171 938 3566 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 65701

42-50 Earts Court Road
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3366

194 Kensington High Street
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3839

First & Business Class
215 Kensington High Street
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

22-24 The Priory Queensway
Worldwide Travel: 0121-236 1234

48 Corn Street
Worldwide Travel: 0117-929 9000

254-284 Sauchiehall Street
Worldwide Travel: 0141-353 2224

58 Deansgate
Worldwide Travel: 0161-839 6969

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

... people think the world of us!

World Offers.

Flight prices from:

Brussels £59 rtn

Copenhagen £119 rtn

New York £179 rtn

Rome £159 rtn

Hotels from £28 per person

For thousands
of World Offers
call us now on:

0345 222111

Book by
1st October '97Fares are return from London.
All are subject to limited availability
and travel periods. Passenger taxes
excluded. Hotel rates are
per person per night.
For details see ITV Teletext p.380,
your travel agent or
British Airways Travel Shop.WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airlineYear round European
travel cover.
From 16p a day.At £29.95 a year, the security
of annual cover arranged
by American Express is
effectively yours from just
16 pence a day. To enrol,
call quoting reference INU18

0800 700 737

AIRLINK
FLIGHTS
01476
514666
0171-713-7770TEGNO
TRAVELNON STOP DAILY
SCHEDULED IN OCTOBER
NEW YORK/BOSTON 199
WASHINGTON 199
CHICAGO 219
LAX/S. FRANCISCO 319
HAWAII 299
DUBAI 359
JOBURG 449
ATLANTA 199
HOUSTON 299
VANCOUVER 319
For friendly, efficient service call
0171 482 0414-2Tour Eiffel, Champs-Élysées,
Arc de Triomphe,
Sacré Coeur, Montmartre,
Le Louvre, Versailles,
La Seine, Notre Dame,
Galeries Lafayette, L'Opéra,
Printemps, Le Moulin Rouge,
La Défense, Les Invalides,
Musée d'Orsay,
Le Centre Pompidou...Are you
sure a
weekend's
enough?

£69* Midweek return.

0345 30 30 30

or see an appointed travel
agent or railway station.*Adults Save Midweek Return. Travel in both directions Tue.-Thurs. must include Sat. night away. Non-exch. available.
Non-refundable. Subject to availability. Valid until 27 Sept 1997. Calls charged at local rate. All calls are monitored for quality.

eurostar

JORDAN, EGYPT, ISRAEL. Tailor-
made itineraries. Call Destination
Red Sea on 0181 440 9900 ABTA
VOT2 ATOL 5851.

FLIGHTSAVERS

LOW COST AIRFARES WORLDWIDE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY SPECIALS

London ... £69 Bristol ... £69

Cardiff ... £69 Belfast ... £69

Manchester ... £69 Heathrow ... £69

Newcastle ... £69 Norwich ... £69

Sheffield ... £69 Southampton ... £69

Tottenham ... £69 York ... £69

All our year-round regular flights
from £49.95 per person. Includes
check-in, baggage, airport taxes & insurance.
CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF
HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS
0990 014101

www.flight-savers.co.uk

Co-op Travel

DIRECT

THE INDEPENDENT

Newspaper Publishing plc
regrets that although every
reasonable precaution is taken,
no responsibility can be
accepted for errors and/or
omissions appearing in the
columns, or any
loss arising therefrom. Readers
are advised to take all
necessary precautions before
entering into any business
arrangements.

Lunn Poly

The UK's Next Holiday Shop

ABTA 1805 ATOL 7335

LOW COST

FLIGHTS

WORLDWIDE

RETURN FARES

FROM LONDON

NEW YORK £171

ORLANDO £199

LOS ANGELES £249

TORONTO £188

SYDNEY £569

JOHANNESBURG £329

HONG KONG £416

PRAGUE £149

DUSSELDORF £79

AMSTERDAM £59

EDINBURGH £56

PARIS £56

For details of flights call into your local
Lunn Poly Holiday Shop or call us on

0990 81 11 11

Lines open Mon-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-5

FREE SWEATSHIRT

ON SELECTED

Virgin Atlantic Flights

virgin atlantic

CHECK LUNN POLY'S PRICES

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Lunn Poly

A better way to getaway

Tailor-made holiday packages from £9.95 per person. Virgin Atlantic offer special
packages from £9.95 per person. Virgin Atlantic offer special packages from £9.95 per person.
Tailor-made holiday packages from £9.95 per person. Virgin Atlantic offer special
packages from £9.95 per person. Virgin Atlantic offer special packages from £9.95 per person.

New Zealand

QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS

Including...
Return UK Domestic
flights on
British Airways
for only £20.Special offers
available on...• Car Hire from £21 per day
(including insurance)• Hotel Passes from £19 per person
per night (twin share)

• Motorhomes from £67 per day (excluding insurance)

• Travelpasses from £242 for 5 days unlimited travel (over a 10 day period) on
trains, coaches, inner-island ferry.• Superior accommodation from £39 per person per night at the Hyatt in
Auckland twin share• Independent tours from £180 per person 3 day/2 night tour Bay of Islands
including accommodation, touring and transportation.Example routings ...
• London > Los Angeles > Auckland > London

For an extra £60

See New Zealand, Australia, its Great Barrier Reef
and the whole world including...• Return UK domestic flight on British Airways
for only £20• 1 free stopover on route from Qantas/British
Airways global network such as
Johannesburg, Bangkok, Singapore,
Malaysia, Bali, Hong Kong, Los Angeles,
Perth, Sydney• Up to 2 additional stopovers at
£50 per stop• 2 free domestic flights in Australia
(ask for details)Example routings ...
• London > Los Angeles > Auckland >
Sydney > Perth > London• London > Perth > Auckland > Cairns
> Darwin > London• London > Perth > Auckland > Cairns
> Sydney > Perth > London• London > Bangkok > Perth > Sydney >
Brisbane > Cairns > Auckland > London
(Many more example routings available -
ask for details)

BOOK NOW for travel between 01 Aug 97 and 31 Jan 98

The leading
specialists to
New Zealand

OFFICIALLY APPOINTED QANTAS AGENT

01420-88724 or 0171-287 5556

Cherry & Sons 12 High Street, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1BN

32 Regent Street, London, W1A 6EX

FAX: 01420-82733 or 0171-287 4322

All fares subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Ask for details.

★ STA TRAVEL ★

WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris £54 Rome £132 Toronto £216 Beijing £329

Amsterdam £59 New York £188 Bangkok £355 Rio de Janeiro £469

Dublin £56 Boston £180 Singapore £399 Cairo £230

Madrid £59 Washington £188 Ho Chi Minh £469 Perth £350

Athens £124 Los Angeles £249 Bombay £469 Sydney £389

MEXICO £249 • JOHANNESBURG £379 • NUSIA LUMPUR £379 • HONG KONG £449

127 Buxton Road NW1, Bx Old Rectory Rd SW2, 11 George St W1, London.

http://www.statravel.co.uk

LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, NEWCASTLE, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, BRIGHTON • STA TRAVEL

JETLINE

Accommodation from £10 per person. Includes check-in, baggage, airport taxes & insurance.

AMSTERDAM £30 59

ATHENS £76 149

AUCKLAND £347 549

BANGKOK £225 355

BEIJING £168 326

BOMBAY/DELHI £182 359

DUBLIN £31 56

HO CHI MINH £23 397

JAKARTA £251 425

LISBON £38 114

LONDON £137 245

MADRID £54 99

MEXICO £194 349

MILAN £59 118

PARIS (Eurostar) £31 49

PRAGUE £85 129

SINGAPORE £252 367

TOKYO £254 409

ZURICH £50 69

*Airlines exclude tax

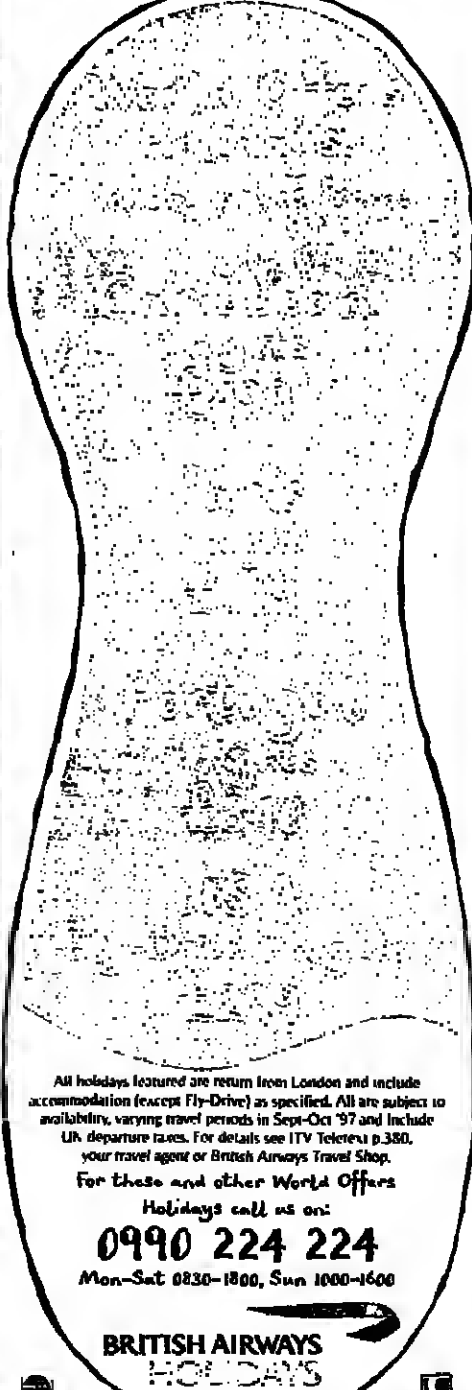
TELEPHONE BOOKINGS
LONDON • OPEN 7 DAYS
WORLDWIDE 0171 730 8111
EUROPE 0171 730 3402
NORTH AMERICA 0171 730 2101EDINBURGH 0131 668 3303
MANCHESTER 0161 273 1721
GLASGOW 0141 553 181843 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE AND
OPEN SUNDAYS 10.00-17.00
AT 52 CROSVENOR GARDENS
(Victoria) LONDON
SW1W 9AG

www.camptstravel.co.uk

BARCELONA fr.£113 rtn

HONG KONG fr.£341 rtn

JO' BURG fr.£345 rtn

BRITISH AIRWAYS
HOLIDAYS

An encounter between this world and the next

You've guessed: it was the bell in the Blue Room that had rung. Had they somehow shut a child or a dog in there? No: everyone was present and correct. Nevertheless, they went back to check – and, of course, the room was as they had found it, empty.

DUFF
HART-DAVIS

One gloomy, overcast afternoon he was out with a stalker, on the high ground towards the southern end of the forest, when they saw a lame stag limping down a steep face towards a patch of woodland on the shore of the water known as the Black Loch. As the animal was obviously injured, Raoul suggested that they try to dispatch it; but the stalker was reluctant to go anywhere near the wood,

The stalker was mightily relieved to see him return unscathed – and Raoul himself has remained, ever since, disconcerted by an experience which seemed to lie somewhere between this world and the next.



NATURE WATCH

The great heat of the summer, followed by heavy rain, has produced a bumper crop of woodland mushrooms, notably the ultra-delicious chanterelles. Look for their bright-yellow, fluted shapes glowing like butter in the grass or moss on moist banks round the roots of birch, beech or pine trees. Pick them reverently, because in Harrods they cost £30 per kilo (when available), and their unique, nutty flavour makes them a rare treat. The woods are full, also, of other highly prized fungi such as cepes, morels and lilac-tinted hewlets; but beware poisonous types such as the red-and-white fly agaric and the innocent-looking yellow stainer. For safety's sake, take with you Antonio Carluccio's excellent field guide, *A Passion for Mushrooms* (Pavilion, £9.99).

Duff Hart-Davis

CLASSIFIED: INDEPENDENT TRADERS

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Unusual Gifts

ROSIE NIEPER T-SHIRTS
Reservoir Cats Blue & grey design
By Whistling Fish

White
100%
cotton.
Size XL £16.99,
p&P £1.95 per
order.

WRITE OR
PHONE QUOTING
N17
FOR FREE
CATALOGUE WITH
LOTS MORE
DESIGNS



12 MUNSTER RD. TEDDINGTON, MDDX TW11 9LL
0181-255-9926 24hrs

"CHE VIVE!"

The brooding sixties icon Che Guevara, revolutionary fighter with a dream, friend and confidant of Castro depicted in classic heroic pose in our bust commemorating the 30th anniversary of his death. 6 1/2" high, dark gray with gold unenameled star on beret. £29.95 + £3.95 p.p. Allow 14 days for ~~normal~~ orders to arrive. **Shower Ltd., The Old Barn, 24 Brickley Rd, Towstree, Northants NN12 6DJ.** Tel: 01327 358080 Fax: 01327 358388

PARACHUTES


100% PURE SILK

**11 FOOT IN DIAMETER - IVORY WHITE
FIRE RETARDANT**

Suitable for schools and playgroups, weddings
and marquees, theatres and clubs, photography,
drapes, curtains, bed canopies etc, etc.

Can be cold / tie dyed or painted with fabric paint.
Ultra Violet reflective - Great for a sun shelter.

£30 + £3 p&p. Tel: 01497 831606.



FREE

GUY ZONE

CATALOGUE

DISCOVER HOW
AND SPECIALLY SEX
PRODUCTS FOR
SEXUAL
QUESTIONS
YOU NEED FROM
BLACK-CHERRY-ROSES,
CONDOM-TOYS,
LEATHERWARE TO
KEEP YOUR SEX-LIFE
HOT AND SEXUALLY
SATISFIED

07000

489 966

GUY ZONE DEPT 8783 PO BOX 69,
WORTHING BN14 8W



FREE
SEXY ADULT
PLEASURE
PRODUCTS

CHALLENGE full of
LOVE TOYS-BOOKS
XXX VIDEOS-HUMORS
WEFALOOK-ENTERTAIN
WEAR-CREAMS AND
SPRAYS plus MORE!

Free Catalogue Only
01635 862180

BY POST TO:
SEXLECTIONS
8011 01635
PO BOX 3297
READING-RG6 2BP

<p>END OF SEASON</p> <h1>SALE</h1>	<p>MASSIVE 30% OFF SELECTED AWNINGS AND CONSERVATORY BLINDS</p>		
<h2>Millennium Awnings</h2> <p>AND ecoSun®</p> <p>EXTERIOR CONSERVATORY ROOF BLINDS</p> <p>The Common Sense Solution to keeping the heat out of your conservatory.</p> <p>Heat is reflected out whilst light is allowed in!</p>	 <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p><i>Manual or electric</i> — <i>Maintenance free</i></p> </td> <td> <p><i>Aluminium construction</i> — <i>Manufactured to</i> — <i>installed to the highest</i> — <i>specification with all</i> — <i>work fully guaranteed</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><i>Manual or electric</i> — <i>Maintenance free</i></p>	<p><i>Aluminium construction</i> — <i>Manufactured to</i> — <i>installed to the highest</i> — <i>specification with all</i> — <i>work fully guaranteed</i></p>
<p><i>Manual or electric</i> — <i>Maintenance free</i></p>	<p><i>Aluminium construction</i> — <i>Manufactured to</i> — <i>installed to the highest</i> — <i>specification with all</i> — <i>work fully guaranteed</i></p>		
<p>HUGE SAVINGS ON ALL 1997 STOCK</p>			

We Make Sofas and Sofa Beds

See your Sofas and Chairs being made
By Craftsmen and Women
Choose your Sofa or Chair and Fabric. Leave the rest to us.
Made to Measure

Best choice of fabrics. All leading Brand names. Sandersons, Monkwell,
Osborna and Little, Liberty and many others. Open 7 days



Letting, Contract and
Interior Designers
Welcome
Re-Upholstery
Curtains and
Divan Sets?

Certainly!

We will beat any other price of a comparable quality

Call the **FACTORY SHOP at Poetstyle Ltd.**
Unit 1 Bayford Road, Mares St.,
Hackney, London E8 3SE (Nr Wall St.)
Tel: 0181 533 0915 2 Hines Fax: 0181 965 2963

ONLY \$95 REPORT



"Churchill's are the only stairlift company I trust, and I recommend them to you" NAME WITHA KING

*** special offer ***

Phone now free! and Churchill's will give you a 30 day money back guarantee!

- Installation often within 3 days
- Most stairs fitted • Value guaranteed

Call Churchill's
0800 371 982
 Call FREE now or call for Catalogue, Cheque or Jou for a FREE home consultation. **01204 751 100**

Nationwide 7 day service

Churchill's Stairlifts
THE STAIRLIFT EXPERTS
 Specialists in stairlifts for over 20 years

**CUTLERY RE-
SILVERPLATING
SERVICE**

Will make your worn cutlery as good as new. Single items upwards. Also teapots, trays, dishes etc. Very reasonable prices. Repairs undertaken.

resonance service.

Full details from:
**C.R.S. Butts Cottage,
Wisborough Green,
Sussex
RH14 0BN
or phone:
01403 700424**

Books


Enjoy using and improving your FRENCH
with *Le Miroir Outré-Manche*

- Read our varied articles and short stories
- Speak the language better with the help of our audio cassettes
- Learn more about France and French life

For pleasurable reading and listening - or to complement formal study
Many translation aids to assist comprehension and enjoyment

FREE STUDY GUIDE with next three issues of our magazine:

Details (post free): Le Miroir Outré-Manche
FREEPOST, MA 13110
Malden MA 02148
Tel (01522) 682122 (24 hr) Fax (01522) 691922



DESIGN INTERIORS
**Wanted show
houses for fully
fitted kitchens**
**Genuine offer
real reductions.**
Solid factory made to order
carcases with interior
matching door colours.
10 Year Guarantee.
**Designer Appliances
Free Design Service**
No Hidden Extras
Phone now.
FREEPHONE
0800 220855

House & Home

**ADJUST TO A
BETTER WAY OF
SLEEPING**

Discover the Secrets of
a Good Night's Sleep
with an adjustable
bed from
ADJUSTAMATIC
- The UK's leading
manufacturer.

FREE!

ADJUSTAMATIC
No.1 IN ADJUSTABLE BEDS

For your **FREE** copy call Fiona today.
7 DAY-24HR FREEPHONE
0800 805000



NEW CUSHIONS FOR
WINDSOR
DINING CHAIRS

ERCOL - PRIORY
& other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples.

LYNPLAN (Dept 057)
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP ☎ 0181 688 5808



MOTO-BARROW

*A must for
all gardeners*



As seen on I.T.V.

For details of this truly versatile
battery powered wheelbarrow
Freephone on 0800 525323 or write to
Moto-Barrow, 9 Century Way,
March, Cambs. PE15 8JW.

For Sales

**PEDOMETER
MAP MEASURERS**

**COMPASSES &
ALTIMETERS**

- Extensive Range
- Excellent Prices

Our impressive range of 40 Pedometers allow you to choose the right model for... your needs. If you Jog, Walk, Run, Cycle or you would just like to know how far you have walked the dog, you can measure the distance travelled. Lightweight and compact.

Precision Made Instruments
guaranteed for reliability and accuracy.

We also have a large selection of Map Measurers, Compasses, Magnifiers, Stop Watches etc. all available at excellent prices.

FREE COLOUR BROCHURE *sent by return.*
WRITE FOR IT

The full range is on FREE colour brochure of quality precision instruments


PEDIMETERS INTERNATIONAL LTD (IN38)
13/14 James Watt Court Braydon Fields,
Darenton, Northants NN1 5RJ

Tel 01327 706930 Fax 01327 871633

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR WATER?

Pozzani Products for effective water treatment of domestic water.

WATER PURIFIER (404) \$78.95
A Chamber that bottles water, in tap, coffee and cooking water, in a bowl without a can. 2 Stages of filtration, a 2 Filter chamber, per year, a Choice of 6, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 4050, 4060, 4070, 4080, 4090, 4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4210, 4220, 4230, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4300, 4310, 4320, 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380, 4390, 4400, 4410, 4420, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4480, 4490, 4500, 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4560, 4570, 4580, 4590, 4600, 4610, 4620, 4630, 4640, 4650, 4660, 4670, 4680, 4690, 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730, 4740, 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780, 4790, 4800, 4810, 4820, 4830, 4840, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4880, 4890, 4900, 4910, 4920, 4930, 4940, 4950, 4960, 4970, 4980, 4990, 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5100, 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 68



MISSIONARY STATEMENT

"The Duchess's little Shoe yielding to the Magnitude of the Duke's Foot"

Subtle images from a gender sex and more explicit modern works form our unique collection of erotica. Limited editions and other popular publications complete the Society's inventory. All positions considered in our lavishly illustrated 80-page catalogue - a collector's piece in itself. But be warned - it's not for prudes. Send \$5.00 (cheque to "EPS") or Visa/Mastercard details to: EPS (Days: 116) PO Box 10646, London SW10 8TZ Tel 0171-351 6957 Fax 0171-244 8590 or order directly from telephone to avoid postage.

THE Erotic Print Society



Dislike? Circulation problems? Vascular veins?
HJ SOFTOP SOCKS
The Original No Elastic Sock
Exert no pressure on the calves and leave no
irritating rings or marks
Wool rich (60%) or Cotton rich (65%)
Sizes: 6-11 or 11-13 in Black, Dark Grey, Navy
or Chamois.
Minimum Order 3 Pairs \$10.50
Available by post from COUNTRY THREADS
8 The Gate House, Rye, East. Sussex TN37 2YU

0891 84

WOMEN
WEAVING
WISDOM

Intervista
di **Enrico**
di **Enrico**
di **Enrico**
di **Enrico**
di **Enrico**

SIRIUS

GAY MEN

ATTACHED?
FEEDING BOMB

Deadline

INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY



'I know my faults
and I see them
in other writers.
We're vain,
selfish, egocentric
bastards ... You
start off spoiled
if you become a
writer and become
more spoiled
if you are
a success'

Norman Mailer used to raise hell and
profile killers but now he has written
a book about Jesus. What's happened?

Find out in John Carlin's
extraordinary profile in the
Sunday Review

Tomorrow marks another stage in the
evolution of the Independent on Sunday,
writes Rosie Boycott. We have made
changes designed to bring you an even
better Sunday newspaper. As you will
discover, **News** and **Comment** are now
in separate sections, with a new **Second
Section** embracing both our excellent
Articles and our highly regarded **Sport**
pages. There are several new features –
for instance, **What the Papers Said** – an
off-beat, critical view of how the week's
news has been presented by other
newspapers. Our **Business** section now
includes **property** and **personal finance**,
because we aim to make the world of
money exciting, accessible and relevant to
you all. Our unique **Real Life** section
expands and now stands alone as does
our get-up-and-go **Travel** section. We've
also introduced essential information in
Smart Moves to help you get ahead in
your career, plus pages of **job** ads, so
you're ahead of the game when the week
starts on Monday. As ever *The Sunday
Review* is unrivalled – still an outstanding
combination of brilliantly written features
and challenging coverage of arts and
books. This week, for instance, don't miss
Tina Brown's interview with the late
Princess of Wales, or **John Carlin's** candid
conversation with Norman Mailer. In
response to your interest we're increasing
our **science** coverage and from now on
we'll be covering breakthroughs in **new
technology**, as well as up-dates on all
that's new on the Internet. Give it a try.
I believe you'll enjoy it.



'You see, Charles
is not a leader. He's
a follower.
He was born to
the wrong job.
He'd have been so
happy with a house
in Tuscany, being
a host to artists.
He just wasn't cut
out for what
he got ...'

Earlier this summer, Diana, Princess of
Wales, talked frankly about her life to
Tina Brown, editor of the *New Yorker*.

Read the full story of
their encounter in this week's
Sunday Review



ROSIE BOYCOTT
EDITOR
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

The name of the rose – and its grower

Zephyrine Barbarachild runs a one-woman gardening business from a base in Lancashire. She talked to Anna Pavord about her circuitous route to the business that gives her satisfying work all the year round.

If your parents christen you with a name like Zephyrine, you are surely destined for a horticultural career. Where else do you ever see the name but in association with 'Zephyrine Drouhin', the pink-flowered Bourbon rose, famous for its thornlessness? For a long time Zephyrine Barbarachild tried to escape her fate. She fled from university (where she read languages) to hide in a croft in Aberdeenshire. There she kept goats, and attempted to forget the three beautiful gardens that her parents had made while she was growing up in Cheshire.

It worked for a while, but then, by a sneaky subterfuge, destiny arranged a date for her at the Quakers' meeting-house at Brigflatts, Sedburgh. She'd applied for and got the job of warden, which seemed innocuous enough. But there was a garden attached to the meeting-house and as well as sweeping out the building, making tea and doing other jobs that wardens demanded, Zephyrine Barbarachild found herself tinkering in this garden, planting things, thinking about it, when she could have been thinking about goats or trade unions or macrobiotics, or any of the other things that had from time to time been important in her life.

Realising how stealthily her *doppelgänger* was creeping up on her, she chuckled in the Cumbrian meeting house and charged off instead to mid-Wales – always a good place to head for in a crisis. There she fell in with some herbalists and, learning on the job, became chief dispenser at a centre for natural healing.

"But it was hard living in mid-Wales," says Ms Barbarachild. "The people are so bloody miserable." So she went off to try London, feeling, as did many at the time, that to have lived at all, you had to have lived in the capital. There she became a macrobiotic cook, most especially to a rather fussy all-girl band.

The job involved delivering regular food parcels to the band's various gigs, but it all had to be done by bike because she couldn't drive. "If I'd had a driving licence, I might have become their roadie," she muses, seeming to mind the opportunity she missed to add yet another episode to the tale of her picaresque career.

But, to cut a long story short, gardening got her in the end. It was her brother's fault. He, being a lecturer in horticulture at St Albans, was her first port of call when she wanted to find out about taking cuttings from a fuchsia. He told her, and delivered a bolt of information about horticultural courses at the same time.

So perhaps it's the fuchsia's fault rather than her brother's that she now runs a one-woman gardening business, Rose Among Thorns, from a base in Lancaster. She gives horticultural advice, takes on garden maintenance and can do garden design. She also creates dried flower arrangements to order and makes Christmas wreaths and swags.

Could she have set up the business without doing her course, I wonder. "No," she says. "Although I didn't enjoy it much at the time, it's come in useful."

What, especially, had been useful, I asked. "Pruning," she replied without hesitation. "Clients get into a terrible twist about pruning, when and how to do it. It's the sort of thing that my kind of business can easily take on."

She sees herself fitting into the niche left by the patio/construction professionals that she calls "the flat-bed truck brigade", who are keener on sloshing around concrete than they are on wielding secateurs. There is a living to be made in her field, she says, but you have to accept that it is seasonal. The slump in outdoor work between November and March is what prompted her to diversify into dried flowers and Christmas swags.

Ms Barbarachild's Lancaster house has a cellar, so she has recently started up another sideline: producing potted hyacinths. She buys the bulbs wholesale, pots them up and starts them into growth in the dark, cool conditions below – ideal for forcing hyacinths. Then when the bulbs have greened up and the buds are beginning to show, fat and juicy, she invites her friends and clients round and persuades them that

potted hyacinths are just what they need to give away as Christmas presents.

Her garden is remarkable for the number of trees that she persuades to grow in pots. Much of the garden is contained in a small concrete yard behind the terrace house, so pots are the only option.

A twisty hazel (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta') shares one pot with a climbing hydrangea. Next to it is a potted larch, *Larix decidua*, which must be at least 10ft tall, and a rather smaller Norfolk Island pine, *Araucaria heterophylla*, which spends its winters in the spare bedroom. And yes, she does

have That Rose. It grows in the little front garden with variegated fuchsia and *Clematis armandi*.

Rose Among Thorns is based at 35 Cromwell Road, Lancaster LA1 5BD (01524 383325). Zephyrine Barbarachild studied for her National Certificate of Horticulture (a one-year course) at Myerscough College, Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY (01995 640611). This is the first building-block necessary to qualify for a horticultural career. If you are successful in the NCH, you can go on to study for a National

Diploma in Horticulture and then a Higher National Diploma. Different colleges offer different options. At Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE (01483 232424), you can study either amenity horticulture (which is what Ms Barbarachild did) or Commercial Horticulture. The first teaches the science of gardening and the skills that underpin it. The second concentrates more on nursery production. At least 35 colleges offer courses leading to an NCH. For a full list send a large SAE to the Institute of Horticulture, 1-115 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS.



Zephyrine Barbarachild succumbed to her calling and is now in the bedding business. Photograph: News Team

WEEKEND WORK

There are several hardy annuals which will make a good show early next year if you sow them outside now, in the place where you want them to flower.

Sow them as thinly as possible, cover lightly with sifted soil or compost and firm this down on top of the seeds. Protect with netting against cats and birds until the seedlings are properly established. Do not thin the seedlings until the spring. There are bound to be casualties before then.

Annuals such as poppy, calendula, larkspur, limnanthes (called "fried egg" because each flower has a brilliant yellow centre surrounded by white-tipped petals), love-in-the-mist, clarkia and cornflower can all be treated to this fashion.

Take cuttings of shrubs such as berberis, philomis and potentilla. They will root most easily in a light mixture of sand and peat. Choose 6in-9in shoots and pull them off the parent bush leaving a reasonable-sized "heel" (a slip of old wood) attached. Bury them about 3in deep and firm the compost down well around the cuttings.

After picking the last peaches andectarines, prune wall-trained trees and tie in new shoots to replace old, fruited shoots. Cut out entirely any shoots that grow straight out of the front of the tree.

Check ties regularly on top-heavy plants such as dahlias and chrysanthemums. Dahlias, especially, suffered during the downpours of August, but there is still time for them to produce new flowers.

Weed carefully round cyclamen corms, which tend to get forgotten after the leaves have died underground. The flowers of *C. hederifolium* are a great treat in early September, and they flourish among tree roots where few other plants will settle.

CUTTINGS

A new list of second-hand gardening books has just arrived from Mary Bland of Augop, Evesham, N. Presteigne, Powys LD8 2PA (014547 560218). I'm still recovering from the sorrow of having lost, through dithering, a fabulous though expensive 1747 edition of *The Compleat Florist* from another second-hand bookseller. This list of less rare, so more moderately priced books, comes as a palliative. It's very good on quite modern books from small publishers such as Tim Buxbaum's Scottish Gardening Buildings.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

GARDENING

FAX: 0171 293 2505

GARDEN WATCHER
KEEPS CATS OUT

Award Winning Ultrasonic Cat Deterrence System

by STOCK NUTRITION
STATION ROAD, YAXHAM,
NORFOLK, NR19 1RD
01362 694957

The Chelsea Plant Stand

Natural Pine
Complete 15
minutes to assemble.
Rustproof fittings
Ready to finish
for indoor
outdoor use.

2300 (4ft 6in) plant stand, 4ft 6in to 5ft 6in.
Order by phone 01223 785101
or by post 01223 785101

Wholesale details from S.A. Johnson
The Complete Houseplant Specialist
Dept 10, Unit 15, Marine Parade, Colchester
CO1 1LH, Essex. Tel: 0206 254111
Fax: 0206 254111

TURTLE DIRT TRAPPER MATS

At last – at last – at last!
Garden and flower
shows nationwide – the
door mat that really
works! No muddy
footprints or paw prints
on clean floors and
carpets!

Turtle Dirt Trapper mats
stop dirt at the door
of home, conservatory or
car with absorbent cotton
piles removing wet, dry and even greasy dirt from shoes and
paws. With non-slip latex backing, they are fully machine-
washable at 60°C. Available in seven colours and 3 sizes.

Blue, Green, Black/White, Pink, Dark Grey, Seal Brown, Black/Brown
• 75 x 50 cm £14.95 • 75 x 100 cm £25.95 • 75 x 150 cm £34.95
• 150 x 100 cm £49.95 • 150 x 150 cm £59.95

Also available with grippier backing for use on carpets – please call for
details of sizes and prices.

from: Turtle Mat Co., 32a Kings Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 8HT
Tel: 0181 296 0366 Fax: 0181 296 0360

FRUIT PRESSES AND CRUSHERS

Two styles and selected
fruit sizes, fresh juice
or smoothies in 10
minutes!

A superb traditional quality
machine suitable for juice,
wine and cider making.

Prices from £99.50
Vat 7.5% inc. p.p. inc. post.
Dept 10, Unit 15, Marine Parade, Colchester
CO1 1LH, Essex. Tel: 0206 254111
Fax: 0206 254111

Don't forget to mention
The Independent
when replying
to adverts

Garden BOOKS BY POST

A New Service for Garden Lovers

* We can supply you with any gardening book in print – post free!
* Special offers regularly available – this spring the RHS
Encyclopedia of Gardening and RHS Encyclopedia of Garden
Plants and Flowers both reduced from £25.00 to £20.00. RHS
Plantfinder from £12.99 to £10.00 and many more.

GARDEN BOOKS BY POST
8 Ann Street, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1NX
Tel: 01903 205895 • Fax: 01903 213438
email: optima@booksbypost.co.uk

FOUNTAINS AND WATER FEATURES

**QUALITY SELF
CONTAINED FOUNTAINS**

Wall mounted or
freestanding, pebble
bowls, figurative
centre pieces and
table top water
features. Original
designs produced in
reconstituted stone,
Portland Terracotta
or slate grey
finishes.

Phone/Fax Kinsman Products
0181 977 2624 for details

TODAY'S GARDENING OFFER

REGRIND
Sharp new
cutting edges on
Mower Blades &
Garden Tools

Today's Offer saves you weeks of waiting and costly
shop recharging charges when mower blades need
immediate re-sharpening to maintain their cutting
efficiency. It also enables you to put your mower away in
good condition with sharp blades, ready for next spring.

For CYLINDER mowers, the sharper tool clamps to
the bottom blade of hand or power models – every
cylinder mower has one. Switch on power or push by
hand and the blades spinning against the powerful
aluminium oxide abrasive are ground sharp-as-new
automatically to precise cutting angle. 3 abrasives are
included, sufficient for a blunt mower.
12" cutting width £8.25; 14" £8.75; 16" £9.25; 18" £9.50.
Add £1.50 p.p.

Rechargeable Abrasives: Pack £1.95, TWINPACK £3.50.
For ROTARY mowers this specially angled grinding wheel
is any electric drill and incorporates a positioning guide.
Will quickly re-grind super sharp cutting edges on most
rotary blades to the correct angle, without removing the
blade. Gives up to 10 complete re-sharpenings, and will
therefore last for years. Also invaluable for re-sharpening
spades, hoes, lawn edges, etc. for easier digging. Money-
saving value at £5.95 + £1.25 p.p. 2 for £11.95 incl. p.p.

Orders will be despatched within 72 HOURS. If you
are not fully satisfied, please return within 14 days for a
full refund.

Post orders to: Gardening Offer, Station, Dept 10/20, 36 Station Road, Evesham, Warwickshire CV4 7JF
Please send me: ☐ 1 ROTARY SHARPENER ☐ 2 ROTARY SHARPENERS
CYLINDER SHARPENER - SIZE ☐ 12" ☐ 14" ☐ 16" ☐ 18"
RECHARGEABLE ABRASIVES ☐ 1 PACK ☐ 2 PACKS
Please remember to include correct p.p.
I enclose Cheques/P.O. for £, payable to JuiTools* Offer
or debit my MASTERCARD or VISA card.

Number _____ Expiry Date _____
Signature _____
Name _____
Address _____ Post Code _____
JuiTools* Offer (Dept 10/20), 36 Station Rd, Evesham, Warwickshire CV4 7JF
(Customer Offer Dept Tel: 01527 832349)

RAINBOW FLOWERS
by POST from GUERNSEY

for Birthdays, Thank Yous
and Anniversaries

CARNATIONS	MIXED COLOURS	MIXED BOUQUET	MIXED COLOURS
C10 10 Luxury	£10.50	SM 10 Luxury Carnations &	£14.95
C18 18 Luxury	£14.00	15 Luxury Freesties	
C24 24 Luxury	£16.55		
F20 20 Pops	£10.95	LM 15 Luxury Carnations &	£18.95
F20 20 Luxury	£12.95	25 Luxury Freesties	
F20 30 Luxury	£14.95	LUXURY SEASONAL BOUQUETS	£14.95
F20 50 Luxury	£17.95	MS Medium	£17.95
		LS Large	

PLEASE ADD £1 FOR DECORATIVE RIBBON AND BOW. ADD £5 FOR
EXPRESS AIRMAIL FOR EUROPE, CANADA AND USA (CARNATIONS ONLY)

TO ORDER ☎ 01481 723513

All our flowers are carefully selected and wrapped in cellophane then packed with
foam, your message, flower food and vase life instructions. Delivery is by First Class
Mail and usually takes 24 to 48 hours

Item required _____ Ribbon & Bow ☐
Send to _____
Message _____
Sender _____
Address _____
Tel _____
Arrival Date _____

Please make cheques payable to: RAINBOW FLOWERS PO BOX 540,
ST PETER PORT, GUERNSEY GY1 6HG

Beautiful Driveways
created specially for you!

*** Huge selection of colours and designs**
*** Unique fibre reinforced concrete**
*** Adds value to your home**
*** Oil and weed free**

Free Survey and Design Service
Call Free Now Lines open 24 Hrs.
0800 174617

YES! I would like a FREE Survey ☐
Please send me a Brochure ☐

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Post Code _____ Tel: _____
POST COUPON TO: Driveway International Ltd.,
FREEPOST NNW1401, Manchester M29 1AG
(No stamp required) Ref: IN208

DELICIOUS FRESH POTATOES

FROM YOUR
OWN GARDEN

POTATO CHARLOTTE – Tastier than
other varieties, this easy to grow seed potato
will give you a really bumper crop. Fabulous hot,
or cold in tasty summer salads. Get your teeth
into the new Marshalls Catalogue, it's out now!

FOR THE NEW MARSHALLS CATALOGUE OF SEED
For the very best range of vegetable seed potatoes and onion sets.
Catalogue Order Line: 01945 583407 quote ref: S21
Or post the coupon to S.E. Marshall & Co. Ltd., Dept S21,
FREEPOST, Wrotham, Cambs. PE13 9BB.

Please send me my FREE copy of the new Marshalls 1998 Catalogue

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

01945 583407
Quote ref: S21

WEEKEND WALK

A stroll in a cascade of memories

Not many walks have everything – wood-ed valleys, waterfalls, coastal beach, spectacular sea cliffs – but this one does.

It starts at Lynmouth, a pretty town built on the sides of a deep ravine on the north Devon coast. Follow the East Lyn River upstream – either side will do – following the signs to Watersmeet.

Even when the river is relatively low, the sound of water cascading over the rocks can rule out conversation, and you can't help but imagine the terror of local people caught in the flood disaster of 15 August, 1952.

On that night the river, swollen by 20 ft after a downpour on Exmoor, hurled tons of boulders down the valley, destroying houses and cars and killing 34 people. Since then the town has repaired the physical damage and established impressive flood defences, but the memory of the disaster is still vivid in this small community.

About a mile upriver on the right-hand bank is another fragment of history. Look out for a spring flowing from the rock which was once the source of water for the old Lynmouth Mineral Water Factory. The remains of a stoneware bottle are embedded in the rock, but today you can cup your hands and simply help yourself to a drink.

You should be well warmed up by the time you've covered the next mile to Watersmeet House. This was once a Victorian fishing lodge in the most romantic of settings, on a lawn below a series of waterfalls where the East Lyn river meets the Hoar Oak river.

If the weather is good you can sit outside under a huge Monterey pine, brought back from California by an enthusiastic Victorian botanist. The National Trust runs the shop and café here (open until the end of

October) and the home-made rock buns and apple pies are virtually irresistible.

Having refuelled, take the path that starts behind Watersmeet House and climbs steeply northwards up the ravine, signposted to Countisbury. This is quite a slog, but it takes you through lovely stunted oak woods which have hardly changed since neolithic times.

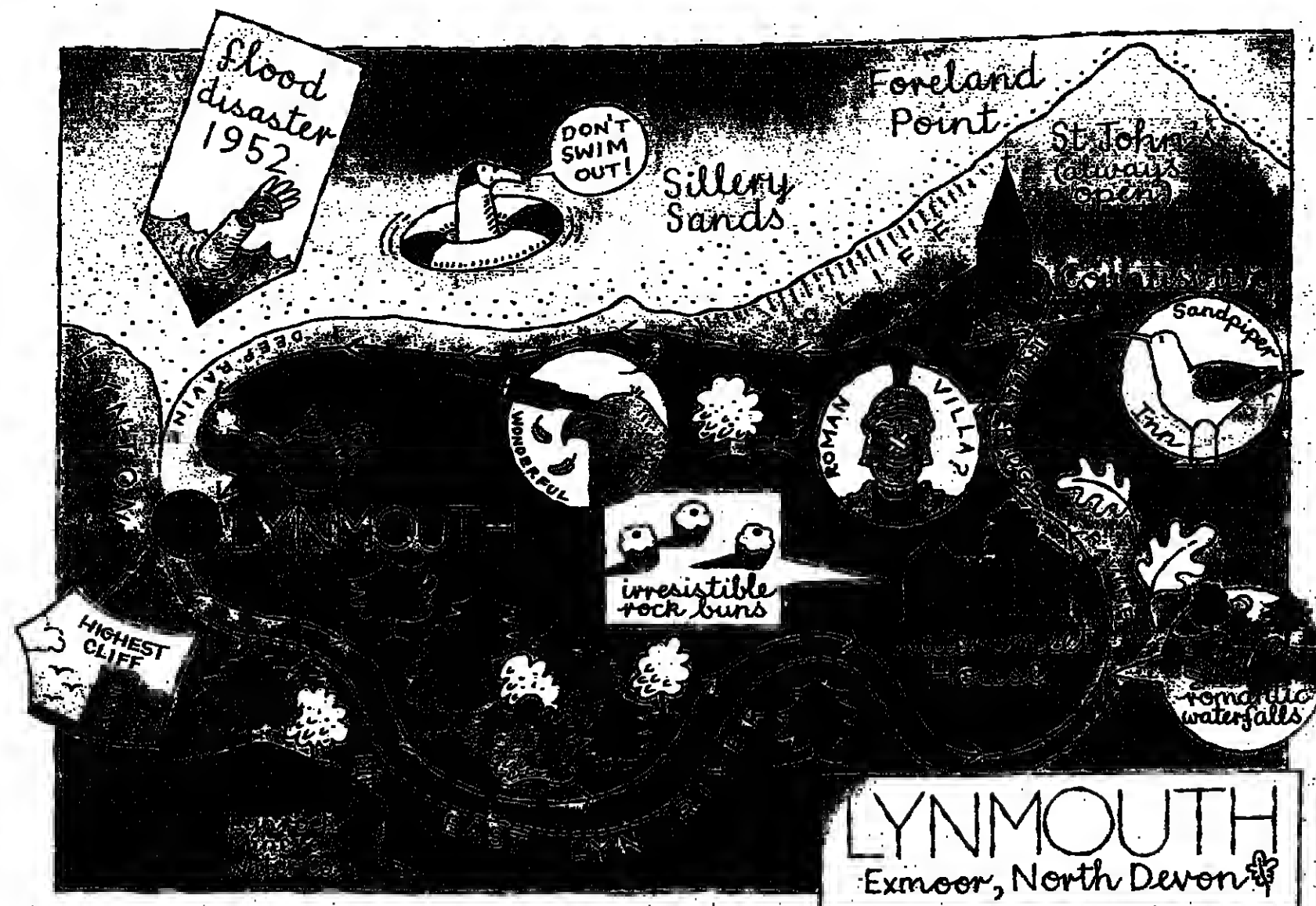
The path comes out on Trilly Ridge, beside a crater-like earth and bank structure. This was either an Iron Age settlement or a Roman villa: until it's excavated, local historians can't agree.

From here you have a wonderful view back down the thickly wooded river valley. Lynmouth is invisible, tucked away in the ravine, but you can see some of its cliff-top sister town, Lynton, sparkling against its Exmoor backdrop. Opposite and to the right of the valley is Wind Hill, a linear Iron Age earthwork, as well as South Myrleberry and North Myrleberry, two more Iron Age sites.

Take a left fork, signposted Winston's Path, and you will soon have your first view of the sea. It's a short hike across heathery heathland from here to the Sandpiper Inn on the A39, posing you with a dilemma. Is it too soon after those rock cakes to eat and drink again – or perhaps not?

Whatever you decide, it's as well to stay sober for the next leg, because once you have crossed the A39, passed the delightful little church of St John (always open for shelter or meditation), this walk becomes suddenly very airy.

Turn left on to the coast path towards Lynmouth and you turn your back on Countisbury Hill, which plunges into the sea at Foreland Point. Ahead of you, in the haze beyond Lynmouth, is Hangman Point, the highest cliff in Britain. The coast path



to Lynmouth is wide and well trodden, but it takes a bit more nerve, not to mention muscle, to negotiate the steep zig-zag down to Sillery Sands. The last 20ft of the cliff is made passable only by some new wooden steps; the last ones – and the ones before – were washed away by the high waves that regularly pound this coast.

It's worth the climb, though. This is an isolated beach mainly of pebbles and boulders, but at low tide the waves break on to a stretch of yellow sand that's perfect for body-surfing.

Don't risk swimming out, however, because the current in this bay can be treacherous, and don't be tempted to walk along the shore to Lynmouth, either. This route is passable for only about 10 minutes at low tide; more often than not, rescues from this stretch of coast involve walkers who have been backed up to the unforgiving cliffs by the tides.

If you are lucky, you will see a kestrel, hanging motionless in the air currents, on the way back up. If you are even luckier, you will spot a peregrine falcon there. And

from now on it's a gentle amble back down to Lynmouth, where teashops full of the bucket-and-spade brigade will help you to feel snug about what a walk they have missed.

FACTFILE
Where to park: Take a couple of pound coins with you, and you can leave your car all day at the pay-and-display Lyndale car park, beside the town bridge.
Poignant photographs and press cuttings

of the Lynmouth flood disaster are on display at the Memorial Hall to the middle of the town. Admission to the exhibition is free.

The water-powered cliff railway to Lynmouth shuttles up and down from Lynmouth at roughly five-minute intervals. The fare is 50p each way.

The Exmoor National Park Visitors' Centre is on the waterfront at Lynmouth, it carries a full range of maps and information, as well as a sister of the historic lifeboat, the *Louise*.

GAMES

Learning at a snail's pace why it is that children get so lucky

Never play a child at a game where chance plays a part, says William Hartston. They are just too lucky.

I first discovered the Principle of Infantile Alcantaric Advantage when playing Snails with Nicholas, aged five. The rules are simple: you go into the garden and select two snails (or more if you wish to play with more than two players) which are then placed on the outermost wooden slat of the garden table. Each player in turn then rolls a die. If a "1" shows, the player may move his snail one

slat forwards. If any other number is rolled, the snail stays where it is. (On a particularly lazy afternoon, one may play with two dice, only moving the snail when a double-one is rolled.) The first snail to reach the crotte of the table wins.

Now our garden table has eight steps before you reach the centre and Nicholas's snail was up to the seventh before mine even started. By that time I did throw a "1", the snail had exuded so much slime that it was quite a feat to unstick it from the table and slide it a square forwards. Then my young opponent threw another "1" and the game was over.

In the next game he beat me

8-1. I scored a thrilling win, by 8-7, in game three, but his 8-3 win in game four made a total score of 31-12, far above anything predicted by the laws of probability.

It's not just with snails. He regularly beats me at any card game of pure chance too. I suspect this is why they ban children from casinos. It's not because they are considered too young to fritter their money away. It's just that they are so lucky.

Last Saturday we played *Monopoly* which I know is predominantly a game of skill. I did everything right: I bought up the light blue set and the Marlborough Street set. Meanwhile,

Nicholas was single-mindedly buying up and developing the green set. Ridiculous! Nobody ever wins with the green set. Unless, of course, the principle of Infantile Alcantaric Advantage comes into operation, guiding the five-year-old unfailingly to all the Chance and Community Chest cards that offer financial reward, while dumping all the "Income Tax Pay £100" type of penalties on the hapless opponent. A copy of *Billionaire* had arrived the previous day from Spear's Games. It's a sort of dysfunctional Happy Families, with players trading cards in an attempt to get a full set of commodities while avoiding the penalty card. There are eight

cards representing Oil, Gold, Shipping, Diamonds, Property, the Movies, Media and Computing. You use as many sets as there are players (from 3 to 8), deal the cards, they offer swaps of number cards of the same type – only it's all done face down, so you never know what you're getting.

Far too complex for a five-year-old who struggles to hold a hand of eight cards. So when Nicholas, his brother James and I began the first hand, I was quite confident. Until Nicholas shouted "Billionaire". He had eight Diamonds. It's no good. I'm going to teach him chess.

Billionaire, from Spear's Games, retails at about £10.



Kids' stuff at a snail's pace

PANDORA MELLY

Malcolm Bradbury, 65, writer and emeritus professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia, recalls his exploits as 12th man in the school team.

When I was young I had a heart condition, so I wasn't able to play any games. Instead I spent most of my time in the school library. In the end, I was allowed to join the school cricket eleven as 12th man, and I did manage to play the odd game – when somebody twisted an ankle, or didn't turn up. I even won a couple of matches. I was always in last, so I had a chance to finish off the game. My heart condition was cured by an operation when I was 27, but by that time I had settled down to having no interest in sports at all. Chess is still my favourite. I like the kind of game where you have to use your intelligence, either alone or against an opponent. Obviously, chess requires intellect rather than physical skill, and you can play it with another person, or against yourself.

There's definitely a game-like quality to writing fiction: you're often trying to work your way through a labyrinth of detail, so you'll probably be interested in word games.

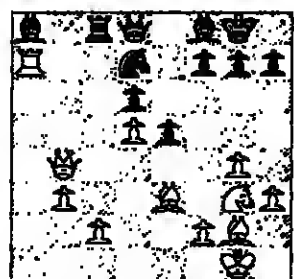
CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

When Garry Kasparov played the entire Argentine team in a simultaneous display last week, he lost only one game, winning six and drawing five. The match comprised two rounds, in each of which he played six opponents under normal conditions – except for the fact that his clock could well be running on all six boards at the same time.

Indeed, his opponents might have done better had they practised some synchronised moving beforehand. Instead, they took it all rather too seriously, made their moves when they were ready, and let Kasparov glide easily from board to board.

His only loss, however, did show some of the strains this type of play can create. Hugo Spangenberg, playing White, found just the right formula. What is needed is a sound yet complex strategy, unusual enough to force Kasparov to take difficult decisions over the board rather than relying on his repertoire of routine that covers almost any position he is likely to encounter.

In this game, the unusual 6.g3 line against the Najdorf Sicilian did the trick. Black's 14...Re8 (to leave f8 free for the bishop), followed by a5, Bb6 and Qb8 all looked natural enough, but after 19.b3 he was suddenly in trouble. White threatens to surround the b-pawn with



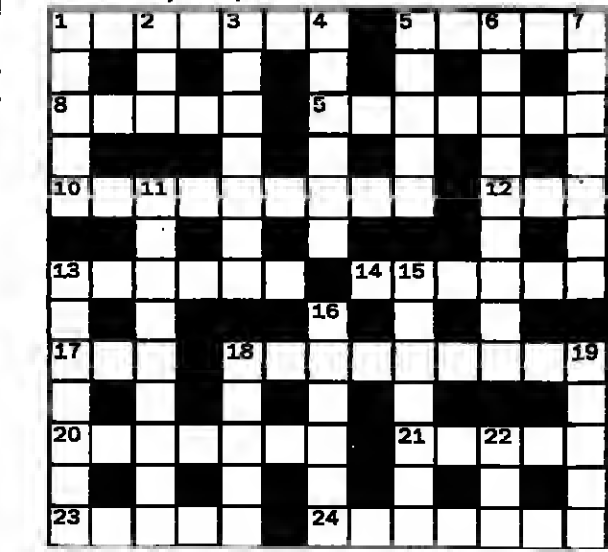
Qd2 and Ra4, and could even, if necessary, consider lining up the bishop on d2 and queen on e1. Kasparov could find no satisfactory counterplay and resigned when the b-pawn fell.

In the final position (see diagram) 28...Rxc2 loses to 29.Qa4 Nb6 30.Qa5, while other moves condemn Black to a slow death as White plays c4 and slowly advances the Q-side pawns. With five other games to think about, Kasparov decided it was not worth continuing.

White: Hugo Spangenberg
Black: Garry Kasparov
Sicilian defence
1 e4 c5 15 a3 a5
2 Nf3 d6 16 Be3 Ba6
3 d4 cxd4 17 Re1 Qb8
4 Nxd4 Nf6 18 a4 a5
5 Nc3 a6 19 b3 Re8
6 g3 e5 20 Qd2 Nc5
7 Nde2 Be7 21 Ra2 Bb7
8 Bg2 b5 22 Re1 Rxa2
9 O-O Bh7 23 Rxa2 Ba8
10 h3 Nbd7 24 Ne4 Nd7
11 g4 b4 25 Ra4 Qc7
12 Nd5 Nxd5 26 Ra7 Qd8
13 exd5 O-O 27 Ng3 Bf8
14 Ng3 Re8 28 Qxb4 1-0

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3409 Saturday 19 September



ACROSS

- 1 Spun round rapidly (7)
- 5 Ship's companies (5)
- 8 Supplidy (5)
- 9 Wild duck (7)
- 10 Just (9)
- 12 Anger (3)
- 13 Wooden hammer (6)
- 14 Gives utterance (6)
- 17 Primate (3)
- 18 Invaluable (9)
- 20 Inactive (7)
- 21 Asian country (5)
- 23 Wild West show (5)
- 24 Information (3-4)

DOWN

- 1 Thin biscuit (5)
- 2 Unwell (3)
- 3 Set of baby clothes (7)
- 4 Fruit (6)
- 5 Minor ailments (5)
- 6 Root out (9)
- 7 Unhappiness (7)
- 11 Plant with yellow flowers (9)
- 13 Wind sinuously (7)
- 15 Advance showing (7)
- 16 Handgun (6)
- 18 Greek philosopher (5)
- 19 Generate (5)
- 22 Twosome (3)

The magazine crossword will be back in its normal form next week. Apologies for its absence today

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

Love all; dealer South
North
♠ J 10 9 8
♥ A K 10
♦ A Q 3 2
♣ 4 3
West
♠ none
♥ J 9 8 4 2
♦ 10 8 4
♣ J 8 7 6 5
East
♠ K Q 4
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 9 7 5
♣ Q 10 9 2
South
♠ A 7 6 5 3 2
♥ 6 5
♦ K J 6
♠ A K

Reprints come and reprints go, but one of the most welcome is *The Expert Game* (Robert Hale, £9.99). The original, of course, was written by the late Terence Reese, first published in 1958 and long regarded as a classic. After nearly 40 years all-round technique has improved and Barry Rigal has done a fine job in updating the original and adding new material.

Take this deal, featuring the American star Gail Greenberg in the East seat. The bidding by North-South was both descriptive

and accurate when they stopped in Six Spades after having made it clear that they held all of the outside controls and had only stopped short of the grand slam because of the weakness in the trump suit.

West led a low heart against the slam and South's natural play would have been, after winning on the table, to lead and run ♠ J. It would not matter if this lost, for now the solitary remaining trump would fall under the ace and in this way declarer would cater for the possibility of East holding all three missing trumps.

Greenberg created a diversion. Diagnosing the situation accurately, she dropped ♥ Q under the ace. It was just enough to sow a seed of doubt in declarer's mind: was it possible that ♥ Q was a singleton and that a trump finesse, losing to a lone hoover, would allow East to ruff the next heart lead?

Perhaps South's play does not stand up to close analysis, but she fell into Greenberg's trap and, when ♠ J from dummy brought the four from East, she went up with the ace, (hoping for a 2-1 break in the suit) and so ended by losing two trump tricks.

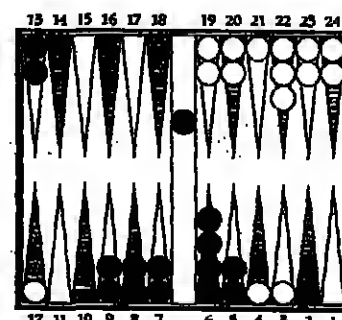
Perplexity

For amusement only: Can you arrange the numbers 1 to 14 in a circle so that the sum of any two adjacent numbers equals the sum of the two numbers opposite them? In other words, if the order round the circle is a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, then

a+b=h+i; and b+c=j+k; and c+d=k+l; all the way round to n+a=g+h.

No prizes for this one. The answer will appear next week, together with the name of the winner of last week's Perplexity competition.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



Here's a difficult problem which many players would get wrong over the board. In fact many players would get the wrong answer to both halves of the question: should Black double; should White take?

Let's look at the double first. On the downside, Black is on the bar facing a 5-point board. Otherwise his position is excellent: he has a five-point prime blockading two of White's men, one of which is not even at the edge of the prime, and there is another White blot on the mid-point which is vulnerable to attack. All he has to do to realise the potential of his position is to enter from the bar. Even if he doesn't come in this roll, White's position will self-destruct if he doesn't roll a six soon. For example, look at the effect of White rolling 55. This is a very volatile position, and Black may well miss his market if he doesn't double now. He should do so.

How about the take? White has four blots, two of which are stuck behind Black's 5-point prime. Many players would see the loss of a gammon as imminent and drop in an instant. However, White has two things in his favour: he has a 5-point home board, and he leads in the race by 97-133. Never forget that backgammon is essentially a race and if White can free his back men he will win not only the race, but also a high percentage of gammons. Finally, White will have some very powerful redoubles after certain sequences.

In practice, many players wouldn't double as Black, preferring to enter from the bar first; and those same players would drop as White, fearing a gammon loss. You simply cannot play winning backgammon with attitudes such as this; you must be prepared to speculate to accumulate.

Fields of dreams for mini players



In the first of a series looking at outdoor pursuits, Tom Chesshyre reports on the increasingly popular sport of mini-rugby for children. With professional clubs in search of home-grown talent to replace expensive players, who knows, this could be the way ahead.

It's a sun-drenched Sunday morning at Rosslyn Park Football Club in south-west London, and 150 players in red-and-white-striped shirts are scampering about after rugby balls. "Deck 'im," booms a man with a whistle. "Come on, put 'im down - that's it, well done son. Lovely tackle!"

It's the first weekend of the new mini-rugby league season and Rosslyn Park's juniors, aged five to 12, are getting their first feel of a rugby ball since April. The play is tentative - for some of the youngest players it is their first-ever go at rugby - but every now and again a ball flashes down a line of players and a speedy winger dashes down the touch line and dives to score a try. Applause ripples out from the proud parents in the stands.

Mini-rugby has grown massively in popularity over the last decade and is now played at hundreds of clubs up and down the country - the Rugby Football Union (RFU), which organises the sport in Britain, estimates that there are now four times as many clubs as there were 10 years ago, playing from September to April. Teams of boys or girls are divided into age groups starting at under-seven-year-olds up to under-12-year-olds; after the age of 12, youngsters graduate to the grown-up game.

"We estimate that there are probably 8,000 mini-rugby teams in Britain," says Alan Black, RFU promotions officer. "The single biggest reason for its growth in popularity has been the higher profile of rugby at the national level. When events such as the 1995 World Cup are shown on television, and the teams do well, it puts rugby into the eyes of youngsters who will want to emulate the stars."

The rules of mini-rugby are broken down into different age groups. The youngest players make two-handed "touch" tackles and can pass the ball forwards or backwards. The under-nine-year-old age group can start proper tackling, and must pass the ball backwards only. The under-10s are introduced to kicking the ball. Technical skills such as line-outs and scrums are brought in later. The size of the pitch also increases with age; from 20m by 30m for under-sevens to 43m by 59m for under-12s.

"The point is to have a gradual introduction," says Black. "You can't have seven-year-olds playing the same game as Will Carling - it's far too complicated."

Most mini-rugby teams are organised by local rugby clubs, with senior sides playing in national leagues. Increasingly, following the advent of professional rugby union, clubs look to their mini-rugby sides as a vital source of home-grown talent, since no expensive transfer fees need be paid.

There is, however, some controversy about this because a few major clubs, including Harlequins and Saracens, have not developed well-organised mini-rugby structures, preferring to recruit players from other clubs at age 19 or so when their potential is more evident. Smaller clubs feel angry that players are being "pinched".

Hundreds of mini-rugby tournaments are organised throughout the season, but there is not a national knock-out competition. Most counties have an annual tournament. Rosslyn Park plays in the Surrey Cup. Mini-rugby organisers tend to be wary of entering teams in too many competitions. Bob Fisher, in charge of Rosslyn Park's mini-rugby squads, says: "We don't believe in the ethos of 'win at all costs'. We're not trying to head-bang kids into becoming tough players. A few tournaments are good because kids enjoy them and they get medals and certificates. What we try to avoid is building up such a competitive edge that kids - and parents - become upset when a team loses. And we teach kids to obey all the rules; we stamp down on anyone who tries to cheat by throwing in little niggles in scrums. There are rarely injuries - the worst is usually a twisted ankle."

At most state schools rugby is not taught until children are 11 years old, which means that mini-rugby at clubs may be their first taste of the game. Private schools tend to start earlier - usually at around nine years old. "If it weren't for mini-rugby at club level, many kids would never get a chance to learn the game," says the RFU's Black. "We are having to fill a void left by the deterioration of rugby in state schools."

So what do youngsters themselves have to say about mini-rugby? At Rosslyn Park, David Miller, aged eight, said: "It's taught very well - you don't spend ages learning complicated rules till you're older. We have lots of mini-games amongst ourselves. This year, we're just learning to tackle for the first time, which is great fun." His friend Joseph Crehan, also aged eight, agreed: "It's brilliant. We won four tournaments last year and I scored a lot of tries. My favourite player is Jeremy Guscott and my dream is to play for England one day."

Joseph's father, Dominic Crehan - standing dutifully at the touch line - said: "It's not just fun for the kids. Parents like me love to watch their games and several of us like to go for a pint together after the kids have been playing. It's a very sociable sport and I've made some good friends."

At this point he broke off, as son Joseph dashed along the wing and scored a try. "Well done, Joseph!" he boomed. "Nice try. That's the stuff. Keep it up, son. You're doing great..."

Mini-rugby for girls
Girls play alongside boys until the age of 12. After then, many clubs have their own girls' teams, although most drop out at 12 to play netball and hockey. Girls often develop faster than boys, so are at no disadvantage in terms of size when it comes to tackling and scrums.

Increasing numbers of girls are getting involved in mini-rugby and there is now a well-developed national women's league with two divisions for those who want to take the game further; Richmond, Saracens, Wasps, Cardiff and Leeds all have squads. Most girls who progress to the highest level usually do so by playing for a school team - more common among private schools - and then continuing the game at university.

Rosslyn Park has just started its first women's side. Bob Fisher, who organises the mini-rugby teams, said: "I've found that playing rugby is a way of building up confidence in girls. By playing rugby with boys they learn to feel that they should be included in everything. It's very important that they get that feeling of being involved."

"It's much rarer for girls from state

schools to start playing mini-rugby. Not only is rugby not played in most state schools up to the age of 11, but they have the traditional pressures to get involved with 'girly' things such as ballet. It would be great if more girls could get involved; mini-rugby is nothing like the tough game you see at international matches on television."

Out of 150 players practising at Rosslyn Park on a typical Sunday, about a dozen are girls. Most get involved because their brothers are playing. Clare Douglas, aged eight, did not look at all out of place tackling boys her age in a practice game - several times, her interventions prevented probable tries being scored. She said: "I started playing along with my brother and enjoyed it a lot."

Most of my friends don't play because they think it's a boys' game - they go swimming or play tennis instead. I don't find that being a girl is a disadvantage - I've scored lots of tries in tournaments that have helped to win games."

Hannah Fisher, aged 10, who plays in the Rosslyn Park under-10 team, added: "It's annoying that people think girls should only do ballet and stuff like that. Rugby is not that rough."

However, Hannah admitted that she will probably give up the sport at 12: "I think I'll probably stop because it might get a little bit harder to play alongside the boys."

David Starling, head of Rosslyn Park's youth teams aged 12-19, said, "We haven't

EMMA HAUGHTON

But Teddenn finds that different people come to her courses - which cover areas such as character, structure, and the practicalities of submitting work - for different reasons. One or two just like the idea of writing, others are new to comedy and want to find out if they have got what it takes, and perhaps three or four will be deadly serious and

have real drive. "Some will come away thinking it's not for them; a few will discover this is what they are born to do."

So does she think people can really be taught to write? You can certainly acquire some tried-and-tested tips, she believes. "I've picked up good ones from workshops myself. You can teach people techniques such as how to map out an episode or structure a typical sitcom, but what you can't give them is that spark that makes stuff special, the magic that makes it all work."

Those lucky enough to have the spark may find that a writing course gives them the impetus to seek publication. Martin Booth, biographer and author of 11 novels, recalls the novelist Lisa St Aubin de Teran turning up to one of his courses with the manuscript for *Keepers of the House*. "I remember looking at it and thinking that it was absolutely fantastic," he says. "In fact, I helped her to get an agent."

got a girls team after mini-rugby stops at 12. Maybe it's something we could introduce in the future as a link to the women's team, but at the moment there just isn't enough interest, I'm afraid."

How to get involved

The best way to find out about your nearest mini-rugby league is to look up your Rugby Football Union regional office in the local telephone book, or call the RFU's national Youth Development Officer on 01484 866363 for details of clubs with mini-rugby teams in your area.

Most clubs require players to sign up and there is usually an annual registration fee of around £30, which goes towards renting

local authority pitches. This registration fee also usually covers medical insurance, in the unlikely event of serious injury.

Mini-rugby leagues tend to be on the constant look out for parent volunteers - vital for keeping up squads as well as ferrying children to games; contact your local club if you're interested in helping out.

The rules of mini-rugby are available from the RFU (0181-891 4141). Most of the rules - which set out what children should be taught at certain ages - are included in *The Laws of the Game* in a section called "The Continuum". There are also helpful guides to mini-rugby - with details of pitches for each age group, and a video, *The Coaching Guide to Mini-Rugby*.

From sad, scribbling wannabe to best-selling star: would a weekend do it?

It's said that everyone has a novel in them, but getting it out into publishable form is quite another matter. Those bold enough to try unearthing theirs can turn to the growing number of residential creative writing courses, which tackle not just novels, but every offshoot you care to think of - poetry, biography, journalism, children's fiction, plays, television and radio scripts.

Tony Rees, a retired civil servant, recently attended a four-day biography course at the Arvon Foundation in Yorkshire. Along with two tutors and 15 other students, he covered such basics as dealing with research, handling sensitive issues, and finding a writing voice. "It was very intense," he admits. "I didn't understand why it was only four days until I went. I slept only a few hours a night; there was so much adrenaline going, and I was so busy writing."

So what exactly did he get out of it? "Basically, it gave me a kick up the arse

to get going," he says. "It undid a block and gave me the confidence to start on the biography I've been planning for a while."

Unfortunately, creative writing courses tend to conjure up dire images of sad literary wannabes led by those who've already failed to make a real living out of writing. Tony Rees's fellow students, however, included a number of published biographers, novelists and journalists. And there is no disputing the quality of Arvon's tutors; this year its students will receive pearls of creative wisdom from such well-known names as Roger McGough, Hermione Lee, Alison Lurie, Rachel Cusk and Simon Nye.

Sue Teddenn, who writes comedy for television and radio, recently taught a course on sitcom writing for Arvon. Ten years ago, as an established journalist, she attended similar courses on television and comedy-writing herself.

"I arrived thinking I wanted to write

Becoming the next Tolstoy
● The Arvon Foundation (01409 231338) runs courses in Devon, Yorkshire and Scotland. Cost: £290 for four/five days. Forthcoming subjects: novels, poetry, short fiction, starting to write, and writing for television. Grants are available.

● The Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306) Cost: £114 to £385 per course. Forthcoming subjects: short stories, freelance writing, travel writing and biographies.

● Missenden Abbey, Bucks (01494 890295/6) Cost: £50-£140 per weekend. Forthcoming subjects: writing for television, poetry, imaginative fiction, magazine articles, historical fiction.

● Belstead House, Ipswich, Suffolk (01473 686321) Cost: £95 residential, £75 non-residential. Forthcoming subject: memoir writing.

Time for Wildwood Flower to bloom

Filices flourish in the autumn and that factor, combined with a favourable draw, narrows down the field for today's Ayr Gold Cup to manageable proportions, writes Greg Wood

Daunting is simply too small a word for the two 29-runner sprint handicaps which form the centrepiece of today's programme, and unlike 12 months ago, there is not even an obviously progressive runner for punters to latch on to in the Ayr Gold Cup. Then, it was Coastal Bluff, who was backed down to favourite at 3-1 and duly can-

tered home, but in a race of such strength and depth, it would be the height of greed to expect anything similar today.

This field is far more evenly matched, and the only crutch for punters is a couple of trends which have emerged in recent runnings of the race.

The first is that a high draw seems a serious advantage, with four of the last five winners coming from a box in the mid to high 20s. The other is the fine record of fillies and mares in this race, which arrives at just the point of the season when the female of the species can show dramatic improvement. As a result, two names stand out in today's otherwise impenetrable list. My Melody Parkes (drawn 29) and Wildwood Flower (24).

Certainly, My Melody Parkes could not have been better treated by the ballot, and with her stablemate Selhurstpark Flyer likely to set the pace from 19, Jack Berry will go into the race with much optimism. At the likely odds, however,

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Sharp Hat
(Ayr 4.15)
NB: Winter Romance
(Ayr 3.35)

WILDWOOD FLOWER (nap 4.15) is the choice, following a victory last time out which implied that she is recapturing her excellent three-year-old form. In the Silver Cup Perryton View (3.05) should go well from stall 28, and dependable Sand-

moor Chambray (next best 3.35) deserves his chance in the Doon-side Cup. Enjoyment of what should be a marvellous afternoon for armchair punters could be spoiled, though, by nothing more than a lost shoe before one of the races, since the schedules at Ayr and Newbury are just five minutes apart. Perhaps racing's well-heeled administrators simply do not realise that not everyone has two televisions.

At Newbury, Arkadian Hero will start at short odds for the Mill Reef Stakes. Luca Cumani's colt won a good event at Ripon last time which has pinned the Mill Reef winner in the last two years.

He should complete a short-reprieve double for Kieren Fallon, who rides Bin Rosie (2.00) in the opener. Bin Rosie is owned by Wafic Said, who said that Fallon would never touch another of his runners after Bosra Sham's defeat in the Eclipse Stakes. That was just about Fallon's only mistake this season and he richly deserves another chance - indeed, some of Fallon's more dedicated fans might question whether Said deserves him. Success today might see him back aboard Bosra Sham in the Champion Stakes now that Fat Eddery is out for the season.

Game Play, winner of the Courage Handicap 12 months ago, will be fancied to do so again today, but he has been rising in the weights. Titta Ruffo (3.00), who ran well when returning from a lay-off recently, offers better value, while

Foundry Lane (3.30), well handicapped on his four-year-old form, is the Autumn Cup pick. An excellent weekend at the Curragh has been tarnished by the removal of Central Park from tomorrow's National Stakes. In his absence, King Of Kings should complete a big-race double for Irish runners, since Oscar Schindler looks good for today's Irish St Leger, a so-called Classic with just two three-year-olds in the field.

The main event in France is the Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp today, which has been ousted from its place on Sunday by trotting at Vincennes. This lack of taste should at least be punished by victory for one of the five foreign runners in the eight-strong field.

Berry gives his all on the low road to Ayr

For Jack Berry, success in today's Ayr Gold Cup would be better than winning the Derby. It would be well deserved too as Berry has never forgotten his injury-stricken career as a jockey and contributes more to the welfare of injured and retired riders than anyone in the sport.

If you were to ask the racehorse trainers of Britain to form a line according to the ease with which they had reached their position, you would find at one end a few for whom it had come very easily indeed. The head waiter walked up to their well-appointed table in the five-star restaurant of life, removed the lid from a silver platter and said: "Here you are, Sir. Success on a plate."

Right down at the other end of the queue would be Jack Berry, trainer, jockey (retired), author, fund-raiser, above all, as he puts it, "a doer". Now approaching his 60th birthday, Berry is one of the most familiar figures on our race tracks, and also one of the most popular, not least as a result of his prodigious ability to turn out winners, of which there have been more than a thousand in the last decade alone. Punters know that every single horse with Berry's initials on its saddlecloth might as well have "tryer" branded on its haunches.

Every race matters to Berry, but much as he cherishes each success, he would probably sacrifice a couple of dozen or so if it would guarantee victory for one of his four runners in the Ayr Gold Cup this afternoon.

Many trainers set out with the ambition of saddling a Derby winner, but Berry was far too much the realist for that. As a teenage stable-hand from a nine-strong household in Leeds where money was always scarce, he set his heart on the Ayr Gold Cup, and when So Careful finally realised his ambition in 1988, the crowd greeted the 33-1 shot like a favourite.

"Everybody in racing knew what it meant to me," he says. "When I was an apprentice with Charlie Hall in Yorkshire, Tower Gosden, John's father, used to stop off at our place for a few days with the horses he was sending up to Ayr. Being fairly light, I'd ride them out, and compared to the jumpers, they were like machines, beautiful horses and so fast. They had a habit of winning the Ayr Gold Cup, and I told myself, if I'm ever lucky enough to train,

BY GREG WOOD

that's the race I'd love to win."

It took him 35 years, but it could have been worse. He might, for instance, have been forced to wait a year for each of the 46 bones he broke during a 13-year career as a jockey, or another 12 months after that, to match the number of winners he partnered. Berry's autobiography, *It's Tougher At The Bottom*, was typically, largely written in the space of 10 days in Tenerife, when he found that there was precious little else to do - "there's no fields, it's all volcanic, no birds or animals" - and that the local shop stocked notepads. The chapters dealing

with his riding career are fascinating, but could be summarised thus: got knackered, had a month off, came back, got to the fifth, fell, got knackered again. Repeat ad nauseum.

"I was the first freelance jump jockey," he says. "If a trainer had a horse that was a bit of a bonecruncher, he didn't want his own jockey on it, so being a freelance, I'd ride it. It was a bit like being a kamikaze pilot."

It was during one of his frequent spells in hospital, in May 1965, that Berry began to sketch out his plans for a training yard. He had broken five bones in a "very messy" fall at Market Rasen - his foot was caught in the irons and he bumped the ground several times beneath the horse's belly before finally coming free. Forced to lie flat on his back in a plaster cast, he could not even write with a biro, so he asked for a pencil instead and doodled upside-down for hours on end.

The drawings were forgotten for the first few months of his training career, but when a suitable farm became available near Cockerham in Lancashire, Berry needed little invitation to raze the wooden buildings before building his perfect stable, almost with his bare hands. His first winner from the new yard was in a selling hurdle, but soon, the ex-jockey turned his attention to the Flat, and in particular, two-year-olds.

"I love the babies," he says. "They're as good as you make them. They're raw, innocent and nice. You're not a trainer, you're a teacher, and you teach them a bit of common sense, you keep them warm and look after them well, and then they'll go out of their way to pay you back."

Paying back is something Berry knows a good deal about. In 1985, his youngest son, Sam,



Berry: a rough ride to the top of the training ranks

Photograph: Robert Hallam

was seriously injured and permanently disabled in a fall from one of his chasers at Sedgfield, but it not only that personal tragedy which has turned him into the Injured Jockeys' Fund's most dedicated fund-raiser (only a week ago he presented the JIF with a cheque for £45,000).

"It's not just me, it's a team effort and I take the credit," he says, "but I know that they could easily be doing it for me. I broke all those bones as a jockey but I'm still comparatively sound, and it means that I can put a little back."

My Melody Parkes, Albert The Bear, Persian Faye and Selhurstpark Flyer, who won the Wokingham Handicap at Royal Ascot, will represent Berry in the big race today, and the first named in particular will go to post with every chance. Defeat, though, will be met philosophically. "Lots of painters are never famous until they're in a box," Berry says. "I'm not saying I'm famous, but I've achieved my ambition and anything else is a bonus. There's plenty of people in their graves who'd love to be around at 60. If you wake up

every morning and you can get dressed, eat, keep warm and have shelter over your head, you've cracked it, really."

When Berry won his first Ayr Gold Cup nine years ago, well-wishers crammed the winner's enclosure to breaking point. Should he win again today, though, he will not be difficult to spot in the maul, having recently had his head shaved to raise money for Shane Broderick, the Irish jockey paralysed in a fall earlier this year. Simply look for the skinhead with the high grin.

A is for ...



GREG WOOD
THE A-Z
OF BETTING

Accumulator: And also for avoid. Doubles, trebles and the rest were invented in the 1820s by a Newmarket bookmaker called Richard Crookford. Punters thought him mad to offer a huge payout for a relatively small stake, but Crookford was well aware that the percentages which work in a bookie's favour in a single race grow ever larger as the number of selections is increased since a single loser will cancel out any number of winners.

When Crookford had his bright idea, he was all but penniless. By the time of his death, he was one of the richest men in Newmarket. The moral of this story has been lost on every generation of punters since.

Akehurst, Reg: Epsom-based trainer with the happy - or some of his colleagues might say, irritating - knack of taking apparently exposed horses and improving them by a stone or more. His strike-rate in the big handicaps in the 1990s is such that a £10 level stake on every Akehurst runner in a handicap worth £20,000 or more would have put you £570 on the right side of even. There are doubtless those trainers who insist that this record is the result of a midnight ceremony involving weird symbols on the walls and a sacrificial goat. The more mundane truth, though, is that he is simply better at it than they are.

All-weather racing: A slight misnomer, since most of the elements of a British winter have forced its abandonment at one time or another, but undoubtedly one of the most significant innovations in racing since the War. In its early days at Lingfield and Southwell, particularly over the lethal and unlamented plastic hurdles, the runners were of such desperate quality that most were puffed by the time they reached the post, and those with even the merest hint of ability could run up hat-trick after hat-trick without ever starting at odds against. Now, though, the competition for places is fierce, and many punters have started to realise that, when compared to a maiden hurdle on heavy ground at Fakenham, a 12-runner handicap on Equitrac or Fildesand is a far more interesting proposition. The going is fast and consistent, and the horses now relatively so, while the fact that there are just three tracks, all left-handed, cancels out another of British racing's great imponderables.

Ante-post: Betting on a race several days, weeks or even months in advance is, in general, a very efficient way to back losers, albeit that there may be Pyrrhic satisfaction to be had in taking 33-1 about a horse which, come the big day, is beaten at 5-2. On extremely rare occasions, an ante-post gamble will succeed, but you can be sure that the principal beneficiaries will be the owner and trainer concerned, who are more than rich enough already. Anyone striking it bet on the day of a race would be extremely foolish to ignore factors such as the going, draw and current stable form, yet that is what those who plunge in the ante-post market do as a matter of course. A cautionary tale concerns the punter who spent the entire winter of 1990-91 backing Cool Ground for the Gold Cup, at all odds from 40-1 down the 7-1 at which he eventually started. He stood to win a fortune, but Cool Ground could finish only fourth. Twelve months later, Cool Ground won the Gold Cup at 25-1. Said punter, needless to say, did not have a penny on.

Authorisation: The process by which a request to stake £200 at 12-1 in an open-looking handicap is rapidly transformed into an offer of "£25 at 12-1 and the rest at SP, take it or leave it". It is no coincidence that authorisation generally takes place somewhere in the head office of a "leisure industry" multinational which has a stock market capitalisation in the billions and a chief executive on at least £1m (plus bonuses and options) per annum. As they know only too well, the last thing their shareholders are interested in is laying a fair bet at a fair price. Giving their shrewd punters the "knock-back" is also an excellent way for bookies to collect information on which horses are fancied for a particular race, and as such, considerably cheaper and more reliable than bribing a stable-lad.

RACING RESULTS

NEWBURY
1.10: 1. SUNLIPS (J. Dutton) 12-1. 2. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 3. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 4. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 5. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 6. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 7. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 8. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 9. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 10. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 11. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 12. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 13. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 14. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 15. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 16. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 17. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 18. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 19. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 20. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 21. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 22. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 23. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 24. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 25. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 26. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 27. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 28. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 29. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 30. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 31. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 32. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 33. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 34. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 35. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 36. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 37. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 38. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 39. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 40. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 41. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 42. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 43. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 44. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 45. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 46. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 47. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 48. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 49. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 50. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 51. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 52. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 53. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 54. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 55. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 56. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 57. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 58. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 59. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 60. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 61. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 62. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 63. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 64. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 65. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 66. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 67. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 68. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 69. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 70. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 71. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 72. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 73. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 74. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 75. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 76. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 77. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 78. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 79. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 80. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 81. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 82. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 83. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 84. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 85. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 86. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 87. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 88. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 89. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 90. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 91. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 92. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 93. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 94. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 95. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 96. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 97. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 98. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 99. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 100. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 101. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 102. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 103. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 104. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 105. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 106. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 107. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 108. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 109. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 110. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 111. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 112. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 113. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 114. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 115. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 116. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 117. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 118. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 119. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 120. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 121. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 122. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 123. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 124. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 125. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 126. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 127. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 128. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 129. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 130. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 131. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 132. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 133. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 134. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 135. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 136. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 137. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 138. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 139. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 140. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 141. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 142. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 143. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 144. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 145. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 146. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 147. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 148. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 149. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 150. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 151. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 152. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 153. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 154. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 155. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 156. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 157. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 158. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 159. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 160. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 161. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 162. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 163. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 164. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 165. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 166. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 167. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 168. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 169. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 170. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 171. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 172. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 173. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 174. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 175. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 176. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 177. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 178. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 179. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 180. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 181. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 182. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 183. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 184. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 185. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 186. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 187. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 188. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 189. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 190. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 191. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 192. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 193. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 194. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 195. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 196. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 197. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 198. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 199. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 200. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 201. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 202. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 203. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 204. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 205. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 206. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 207. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 208. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 209. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 210. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 211. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 212. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 213. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 214. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 215. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 216. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 217. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 218. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 219. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 220. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 221. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 222. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 223. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 224. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 225. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 226. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 227. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 228. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 229. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 230. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 231. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 232. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 233. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 234. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 235. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 236. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 237. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 238. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 239. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 240. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 241. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 242. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 243. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 244. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 245. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 246. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 247. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 248. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 249. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 250. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 251. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 252. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 253. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 254. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 255. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 256. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 257. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 258. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 259. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 260. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 261. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 262. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 263. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 264. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 265. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 266. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 267. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 268. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 269. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 270. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 271. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 272. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 273. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 274. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 275. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 276. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 277. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 278. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 279. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 280. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 281. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 282. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 283. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 284. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 285. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 286. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 287. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 288. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 289. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 290. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 291. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 292. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 293. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 294. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 295. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 296. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 297. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 298. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 299. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 300. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 301. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 302. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 303. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 304. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 305. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 306. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 307. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 308. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 309. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 310. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 311. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 312. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 313. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 314. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 315. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 316. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 317. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 318. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 319. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 320. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 321. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 322. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 323. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 324. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 325. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 326. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 327. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 328. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 329. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 330. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 331. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 332. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 333. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 334. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 335. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 336. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 337. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 338. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 339. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 340. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 341. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 342. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 343. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 344. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 345. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 346. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 347. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 348. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 349. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 350. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 351. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 352. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 353. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 354. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 355. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 356. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 357. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 358. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 359. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 360. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 361. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 362. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 363. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 364. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 365. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 366. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 367. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 368. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 369. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 370. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 371. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 372. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 373. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 374. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 375. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 376. Add Test (J. Dutton) 12-1. 377. Bullion (J. Dutton) 12-1. 378. Add Test (

One devastating delivery and all hope of mastering the art of cricket drained away



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ON PROBLEMS CAUSED BY A WORD OUT OF PLACE

Our foul pipe glistened in the unfamiliar sun. Fractured. But the news was not all bad.

"You can save the gully if you want," said our plumber, leaning well down into the watery trench to display the traditional badge of his trade.

"Oh good," I replied. "That's one good thing."

The gully, I had no idea what it was, but if it could be saved, then, surely, so much the better.

It would have been all right to have left it there. No one would have complained. But the word tugged at me.

Some years earlier, taking part in a cricket match, I had been despatched to the gully by my captain.

For whatever reason, I have always found cricket a difficult sport to get to grips with. Despite

study - Sir Leonard Hutton's 1961 publication, aptly entitled *Cricket*, has been my guide in these matters - important cricketing facts, such as the correct grip for the leg cutter or, for instance, where to stand when sent to the gully, have always eluded me.

I have wondered at times whether this might be psychological, relating perhaps to a traumatic experience in my school fourth year, when, for reasons which have always escaped me, I was selected to open the batting in an inter-form match against my mate Jumbo.

He fancied himself as a fast bowler, and given his natural attributes - 6ft 4in, school 400 metres champion, arms down to his knees - the dreams were not without substance.

As my friend pawed the

ground in the middle distance, the entire fourth form of girls arrived at the boundary, dressed for a cross country race.

I did what I knew I had to in the circumstances. I asked for middle and leg. As my batting partner gravely considered the position of my grounded blade - "Left a bit... right a bit... middle" - the words deckchairs and Titanic came into my mind.

Jumbo took a long time arriving, growing bigger and bigger, his long, hippy hair flying up under his school tie bandanna. But it took a very short time for the ball to scatter my wicket after it had left his hand.

Where do you go from there? Well, back to the pavilion, of course. But beyond that, such an event naturally causes one to consider one's future vis-à-vis the sport involved. Plus

there was the fact that I had no talent.

Why, given that sad history, I had ever agreed to turn out again in cricket whites is a question I can't answer. A favour for a friend, I think it was.

Given my orders, I began a slow, ambiguous walk towards the wicket. In my mind's eye, I saw the star-bursts of field placing diagrams, with lines leading out from the wicket to marked positions.

Short third man. Deep square leg. Silly mid-off. And the preface, rebuke of my guide book coming back to me: "In my opinion, there is no excuse for bad fielding."

I kept walking after I passed the wicket, heading, as I thought, for somewhere quite far behind it. Or was that third man?

When I was brusquely sum-

moned by team-mates to join them near the stumps - mental note: gully stands with the slip fielders - I carried on a little further, as if checking an irregularity in the pitch which had been bothering me. But in my heart I knew I was safe.

It has come up again, that word.

If it is the mark of a truly good footballer that they always seem to have time, I fall into the other category. When the ball arrives at my feet, I am playing pass the parcel with something that ticks.

The ticking becomes louder with fatigue. At that stage of the game when you feel tiredness in your legs - in my case, about 20 minutes after kick-off - the need not to fail, rather than to succeed, becomes paramount.

After sending the ball on a

feeble arc towards some jostled team-mate, you feel a shameful sense of relief. "You deal with it. I'm knackered."

Then the ball comes back to you.

At such moments, players like Danny O'Shea have been invaluable. Bow-legged, approaching 50, this grizzled veteran of semi-professional football still regarded attempts to dispossess him as a personal affront.

He had the power to demoralise from long distance. As some powerfully built athlete bore down upon you with a weaving run, Danny would shout out: "He's going nowhere" with such deep contempt that the incoming forward would visibly shrink and check, doubts about his real worth already beginning to assail him.

But not all of Danny's house injunctions were as effective. Legs buckling with fatigue towards the end of one grudge match, I found myself in anxious charge of the ball with opponents moving in from all sides. What to do? Where to...?

A familiar voice, backed: "Mick! In the gully! In the gully!" The gully. Yes. The gully. Where was the gully exactly? Sort of, inside-left position, or...? I gave the ball back to Danny.

As I stood surveying the unearthed contents of my driveway, I considered how ignorance, or reluctance to disclose a lack of knowledge, had hindered me over the years, and how it needn't have been that way.

So I asked the plumber about the gully. It was the big concrete thing.

Seve relishes history and a homecoming

The staging of the Ryder Cup in Spain for the first time next week will give the competition a special flavour - especially for a European team led by one of the modern game's most inspirational figures, Severiano Ballesteros.

Severiano Ballesteros' career has been one of cause and effect. Give him a cause he believes in passionately and the effect can be devastating. Two of the most powerful influences in his golfing life have been his passion for beating Americans and his desire to raise the profile of the game in his home country. In next weekend's Ryder Cup, the two collide. As captain of the European team, Ballesteros will put the drama into Valderrama.

That the Ryder Cup, the gift to international competition of seed merchant Samuel Ryder in 1927, will be played in Spain for the first time is deserved recognition for a quite exceptional Spaniard.

The event has only been played outside England or America once, at Muirfield in Scotland, and in recent times has appeared the private property of The Belfry. The one-time potato field in the west Midlands has staged the last three matches in Europe, and will do so again in 2001, the centenary year of the Professional Golfers' Association which is based there.

So this is Ballesteros' golden moment, though, like most things in his career, controversy has not been far away. Rows about who should be on the team merely followed squabbles about where the match should have been played. Anything could happen this week, and probably will.

Yet Ballesteros' flair for the unpredictable and the brilliant would have been lost to the competition which best suits his genius but for Jack Nicklaus. It took no lesser a person than Nicklaus to persuade the British PGA to open its doors to the continental Europeans to even up what had become a biennial non-contest.

At the time, Ballesteros had already announced himself as a 19-year-old by finishing as runner-up in the 1976 Open Championship. By the time he and Antonio Garrido teed up in the 1979 Ryder Cup, Ballesteros had become the Open champion at Lytham. By 1983, when the Americans won by only a point, Seve had fallen under the spell of the Ryder Cup.

BY ANDY FARRELL

"That was when I realised that the Ryder Cup meant a lot to everyone," he said. It was here that he played what he would later describe as "one of the shots of my life". At one point three-up on Fuzzy Zoeller, the Spaniard saw his lead disappear and was in trouble at the last when he hit a three-wood from a fairway bunker over the green which enabled him to halve his match.

Seve's spirit and enthusiasm drove Europe on to the historic victories at The Belfry in 1985, the first win in 28 years, and at Muirfield Village 1987, for the first time on American soil.

later, sent to console Constantino Rocca, who lost a vital match, Seve ended up being cheered by the Italian.

"I think that Seve Ballesteros is the most incredible being I have ever met," Tony Jacklin, Europe's captain in from 1983 to 1989, said at Muirfield Village. "In situations like this he is almost superhuman."

David Feherty, who played in the '91 match, explained it this way: "It's almost like there's a force field around him," he said. "He gets this aura of invincibility."

Even playing the worst golf of his life two years ago at Oak Hill, Ballesteros, without hitting a fairway on the front nine, managed to be only one down to Tom Lehman in the top singles. The point was eventually lost, but the not on his teammates, who fed on his willpower to overturn a two-point deficit and regain the Cup.

"He doesn't leave anything for granted," said Jose Maria Olazabal, who partnered Ballesteros to 11 wins in 15 matches together. "He tries the best and gets the best out of the rest of the players. That's why he has been so inspirational."

Whether Ballesteros, unlike Lee Trevino or Brian Huggett in the past, can turn that inspiration as a player into skilled leadership as captain is his next challenge. "I believe so," said Olazabal. "I think he will somehow make the team into a strong team and a very close team. I believe he will get the best out of us."

But along the way have been the controversies, too. He was left out of the 1981 match due to a dispute about appearance money on the European tour, while American players are convinced it is no coincidence Ballesteros arrives on the first tee with a little cough. After their clashes in the 1989 and



Seve Ballesteros: The Ryder Cup in Spain is a golden moment for the Spaniard but controversy has not been far away Photograph: Allsport

1991 matches, Paul Azinger described him as "the king of gamesmanship", a statement he later retracted.

Off the course, it has been no different. While Valderrama, the exclusive course owned by the Bolivian Jaime Ortiz-Patino, was always the front-runner to stage the match, Ballesteros campaigned for the Ryder Cup to go to his own course, Novo Sancti Petri, near Cadiz. He now regrets getting involved. On

two occasions he called the Spanish Golf Federation a "cancer on the game" and accused Patino of trying to bribe him.

How much notice Spain is taking of the Ryder Cup, though, is another of Ballesteros' concerns. "People will be interested for the week of the Ryder Cup, but not the week before or the week after," said a leading Spanish golf journalist.

When tickets went on sale to golf clubs in 1994, there was vir-

tually no immediate response and the federation had to reserve 5,000 tickets. Of the 25,000 gallery, 18,000 are expected to come from Britain, northern Europe and America.

While Andalusia has taken the opportunity to market itself as a worldwide destination, attracting new golf course building and large hotel groups like Marriott, the growth of golf in the country as a whole has been restricted to the emergence of

golf societies and local villages clearing scrubland to re-serve three or four rough holes.

"That would never have happened 10 years ago, but there are only 100,000 golfers registered with the Spanish Federation. Golf is still a very elitist sport in Spain," the journalist added.

Hardly a line recorded Ballesteros' first US Masters victory in 1980, which is something he has not forgotten. One of his recent

complaints has been that there were no Spanish in Munich or Crans for the team announcements - or non-announcements. They preferred to stay at home where the controversially excluded Miguel Angel Martin was venting his spleen.

"It is very sad that it took Martin for the Spanish papers to write about the Ryder Cup," said Ballesteros. At least there will be plenty to write about over the next week.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Today

Football

3.0 unless stated

Major football fixtures Page 27

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

Football

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

Football

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

Football

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

Football

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

Football

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

Football

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

3.0 unless stated

A riveting night's viewing for the football fanatic and the cross-Channel swimmer



ROBERT WINDER

SPORT
ON TV

Midway through Liverpool's Champions' League match against Celtic on Tuesday evening, Trevor Brooking made an unusual confession: he was speaking about Michael Owen's cleverly angled runs, and admitted that they were "the sort of thing you can't really see on television." A clear *faux pas* on the face of it: TV pundits are not supposed to suggest that you'd be better off going to a football ground. But it was well-timed, coming as it did on an evening - Super Tuesday - when you could, if you wanted, have watched nothing but football for six straight hours.

Channel Five kicked off with Salónica v Arsenal; BBC1

followed suit with Celtic versus Liverpool, and then it was back to CS for Bordeaux v Aston Villa. By way of a nightcap, fans could cool off with a quick blast of Coca-Cola Cup action - Millwall versus Wimbledon - on Carlton. On Wednesday there was Newcastle v Barcelona (ITV) - confirmation that European matches "bring out the big adrenalin" in Faustino Asprilla - and highlights of Manchester United v Kosice. And on Thursday we had Chelsea v Slovan Bratislava (CS). Viewers could be forgiven for forgetting that the cricket season was just huddling to a climax.

Actually, in the week when English cricket took one look

at the future, and then slammed the door on it, it was salutary to be shown so forcefully the impetus that increased television coverage can give to a sport. This three-day carnival of international football came courtesy not of cable or satellite, but of old-style terrestrial TV. It was refreshing to see the people's channels showcasing the people's game at its most cosmopolitan, while the big-back satellite stations curled up with the parochial version: Scunthorpe v Everton in the Coca-Cola Cup. Refreshing also to see Barcelona, like so many British clubs over the years, coming to grief in one of those tricky fixtures.

Keeping abreast of the ac-

tion, though, was no easy task. I can't have been the only person who watched five hours of continuous play on Tuesday night without seeing a single goal. I missed Salónica's winner against Arsenal because I flicked over to see Liverpool kick off against Celtic. When Michael Owen struck in Glasgow, I was watching Leicester attempt to hang on to a 1-0 lead against Atletico Madrid (on Eurosport). I went back to Glasgow, then on to Greece, watching nothing much happen in either place, and returned to Madrid to find that Atletico had pinched a 2-1 lead. "This can happen with the continental teams," said Gordon Banks in the expert's chair -

and I promptly became so gripped by his stirring and lopsided loyalty to Leicester's cause ("Kamark's done a great man-to-man job on Juninho, even though he scored the goal") that I missed Celtic's equaliser against Liverpool.

On and on it went. Where-

Over in Salónica, Jonathan Pearce continued his high-octane attempt to modernise the ancient protocols of commentary. "Still Arsenal press!" he cried, as Salónica swept upfield. "Go on Vieira!" he pleaded. "Gobble up that ground!" Elsewhere, as always on "Big European Nights," it was the Night of the Long Names. There are signs of an increasingly worldliness in our commentators: they rarely trip and stumble as they used to, perhaps because so many of the tricky names are in the Premiership these days.

But other stereotypes persisted. As so often, the overseas teams were violent cheats in cahoots with the referee. This

was most obvious in Madrid, courtesy of Gordon Banks. As always when the TV companies engage fans rather than commentators his view was spectacularly one-sided. Leicester, he thought, had done splendidly if you didn't count the two goals they let in.

Very much so, as we say in newspapers.

Endurance test for the very best

For nine months the competitors in the Whitbread Round the World Race, which starts in the Solent tomorrow, will have their physical and mental capabilities stretched to the limit. Stuart Alexander reports

The seventh and final Whitbread Round the World Race brings some of the best ocean racing in the world to the start line of one of the most gruelling tests in sport.

The first leg alone, 7,350 miles to Cape Town, will take 30 days of non-stop concentration and effort, 24 hours a day, with rarely more than three hours of continuous sleep for any of the 12 crew on board. That is 12 consecutive Fastnet Races, back to back, without any break at all.

Lawrie Smith, bidding to become the first outright British winner in the big-budget Silk Cut, says that, on the shorter legs, there will be no opportunity for any structured sleep at all, and this on 60-foot boats generating huge amounts of power and requiring fierce focus on extracting maximum speed every inch of the way. Drop for even a moment and the ever-watchful computer will squawk a warning.

From being as much an adventure as a test of endurance when it began in 1973, the race has developed a grand prize status, with professional competitors driving equipment, enjoying research programmes sometimes as complex as Formula One race cars. Having reached this level of international professionalism the race is now leaving the UK to be run in Sweden and Brussels by Volvo in 2001, if they stick to the four-year timetable. Everything

is up for discussion, including the route and the boats to be used.

Race director Ian Bailey-Willmot says he is disappointed with a turnout of 10. He believes there should have been 15, but he is more than satisfied with the presence of Dennis Conner for the second time, Paul Cayard for the first time, and a clutch of big names both as skippers and crews who draw on the best from an international pool.

The course has been changed to allow a return to Cape Town, a shift from Uruguay to Brazil, a second stopover in the United States and the inclusion of France, which then provides a sprint finish. Gales and ice remain a hazard on the runs from South Africa to Australia, and from New Zealand round Cape Horn. The shorter legs will provide an intensity that will be equally draining.

This is no arena for amateurs. This is no race in which, when the winds grow violent, you strap everything in, batten down the hatches, and wait for it to abate. In the southern ocean you are going downhill, driving the boat right up to the edge of its capabilities, risking the sort of serious wipe-out that can rip the mast right out of the boat.

There is no one down there to launch a lifeboat. The competitors have to rely on each other, as they did last time when the Italian yacht Brooksfield was taking water. And you have to keep pushing to gain those vital yards which mean places, and therefore points, at the finish.

All the previous six races have been decided on accumulated time for the whole 31,000 miles. This time there is virtually a series of nine races and it will be consistency in them that will decide the winner; the bonus of a points, rather than time, system is that one bad leg

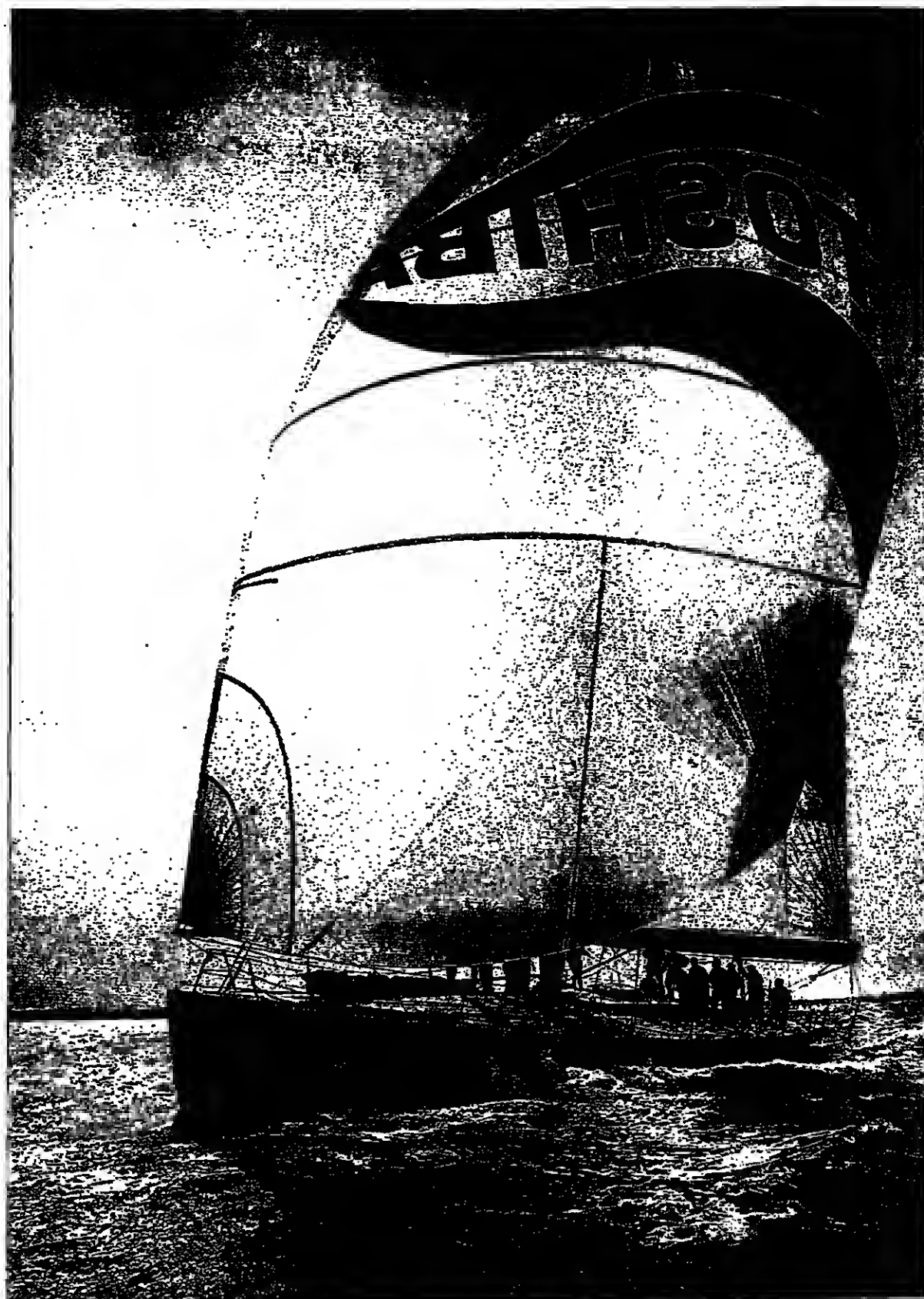
need not cost any boat the whole race.

The new format, coupled with the relegation of the old maxis and the use only of Whitbread 60s, has led many to believe there will be permanent cat and mouse games each other. But Merit Cup skipper Grant Dalton thinks there will be major differences in speed, especially over the first leg.

The deciding factor will be the success of the programmes to develop fast sail designs. The sails deliver the power, but they are also the gearbox of the yacht. Their development will continue right to the end. The right shape and size is crucial, sailing the boat at the optimum angle to deliver maximum power adds to the conundrum, and those that can achieve both, as well as having all the right clubs in the bag as conditions change, will be the winners.

Assuming they do not suffer from gear damage. Both the race favourite, Chris Dickson who skipper's Conner's boat, and his greatest rival, Smith, are willing to push both yachts and crews very hard. Any miscalculation and both Dalton and Gumar Krantz in Swedish March will be waiting to pounce.

These are good times for Smith, whose 2000 America's Cup hopes have been given a considerable boost this week. The Spirit of Britain syndicate, which is challenging New Zealand through the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, announced major design and technology backing from the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, Bristol University's Aerodynamics department, the Parametric Technology Corporation and Silocon Graphics. For syndicate chairman, Prof Andrew Graves of Bath University, the heavyweight credibility should smooth the search for up to £15m sponsorship.



Toshiba, skippered by Chris Dickson, practises for tomorrow's start of the Whitbread race. Photograph: Peter Jay

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

Fast route to Ryder Cup on the Net

As Europe gets ready for its biennial outbreak of golf fever, more unifying than any EC directive, with the start of the Ryder Cup at Valderrama in Spain next Friday, internet users have a head start. There are golf sites that cover the American and European tours on a weekly basis and some have included sections on the Ryder Cup.

However, there is an official Ryder Cup site, rydpercup.com, and this provides the most comprehensive coverage with some interesting features. With TV coverage restricted to satellite, you could do worse than follow the action via the net and the radio. This site is "cybercasting" in real time once the competition proper starts, with hole-by-hole updating of scores and a promised audio link to Radio 5 Live, star of the 95 Ryder Cup.

Features include a breakdown of the course, with an aerial overview of each hole plus Seve Ballesteros' ideas on how to play it. There is the official programme, with articles by writers such as Ian Wooldridge, Hugh McIlvanney, Peter Dobereiner and Michael McDonnell, the match format, records of every player who has played in the competition and detailed profiles of this year's contestants.

There are also sections devoted to news, features and trivia. CBS Sportsline is more americanised as one would expect, with only details on the American team, although golf.com, which is linked to NBC sports and Golf Digest, presents a more balanced view. [GolfWeb](http://golfweb.com) is another good site, with all the features one expects plus an odds section. [Golf on Line](http://golfline.com) is the web site for Golf Magazine with its articles. The US PGA tour site seems to be completely insular and is ignoring the Cup altogether, while the European tour site gives a link to [GolfWeb](http://golfweb.com).

[Golf in Spain](http://golf.com) is mainly for the golf tourist, playing or watching, with player profiles and course details. The [Sporting Life](http://sportinglife.com) site has Ian Wooldridge providing his personal assessment of the Ryder Cup, the American team and a hole-by-hole guide to Valderrama and will be doing live scoring. That is the real test and from Friday we will see how each site keeps the scores for each match up-to-date.

ADDRESSES

Official Ryder Cup site
<http://www.rydpercup.com>
CBS Sportsline
<http://cbs.sportsline.com/rydpercup>
GolfWeb
<http://www.golfweb.com/rydpercup>
Golf in Spain
<http://www.golfsan.com/rydpercup>
golf.com
<http://www.golf.com/rydpercup>
Golf on Line
<http://www.golfonline.com/rydpercup>
Sporting Life
<http://www.sportinglife.com/rydpercup>
- Edward Ableson

BOAT-BY-BOAT GUIDE

Silk Cut (GB): Britain's best chance by far to win the Whitbread outright, according to skipper Lawrence Smith who switched from Sweden's EF team to a position of greater control, a crew he picks himself and a big budget. He has the lot between his teeth and a tight-knit crew. Joint favourite with Chris Dickson.

Mark Cup (Monaco): Skipper Grant Dalton talks up his administrative skills and leaves the sailing pleads to crew and navigator Mike Chiller. He is tough, confident about a two-week development programme, and has shown speed where it matters. A top three barrier.

Brunei Sunergy (Netherlands): An almost unknown quantity with one of the two non-British Farr boats and a team with almost a century of experience. Their tightly-knit boat, from the German-Dutch team of French Judd and Rott

Vrolijk, has yet to impress, but they have a new keel bulb and rubber and replacement skipper Hans Bouwmeester looking for success in heavier air legs. Konnerst Innovation (Netherlands): Looked very strong early on and then slipped in the ratings a little. But the addition of Frenchman Pierre Mas is a big plus and in Marcel van Triest skipper Knut Frostad has a navigator not afraid of big decisions. The crew is strong, but they find themselves in the second position.

Swedish Match (Sweden): Of all the teams picking up pace as they approach the start, this is the quickest, with the influence of Knut hard man line Williams most noticeable. This is not a boat of management by consent but by uncompromising example and their backers have been ready to spend whatever it takes.

EF Education (Sweden): The all-woman approach is proving a hard challenge for a crew with a strong French influence. Skipper is Christine Gullou, navigator Christine Brand, Marie-Claude Kieffer joins for the Cape Horn leg, Isabelle Audouin for the last two. Wanted to increase crew to 14 to compensate for admitted lack of equal strength.

EF Language (Sweden): Generously funded, their reward has been a catalogue of grief. Lost, won, then lost Lewis Smith as skipper, plus many crew. Lost two more key players and then had row over defuncting navigator as skipper Paul Cayard finally concentrates focus away from his America's Cup ambitions.

Chester Race (US): What looked to some like a rich man's whim has seen investment manager George Collins turn a gentle representation of Cheesecake

Bay into a hard-edged team. Guests like Gavin Brady, John Kestel, Don Smith and Mike Toppi added to crew with deceptive strength could embarrass some of the higher profile rivals.

American Challenge (US): Dark horses turned maverick coils. Last time's winning skipper Ross Field has taken charge of the other non-British Farr boat, but will sail with only 11 as he turns a last-minute death into an art form. They say Alan Andrews' design is significantly quicker; it so the others are in trouble.

Toshiba (US): Jean-François Smith for the sailors, if not the bookies, as the management skills of Dennis Conner combine with the talent of Chris Dickson. Sure to have original ideas on sail design, including Cuban fibre masts. Dickson's ability to drive fast when on the edge has even his detractors gasping.

Power, grace and a real Errol Flynn steering wheel

Only the top yachtsmen in the world are to be found on a Whitbread yacht, so the chance for a landlubber to talk jibs and genoas with the best was too good to miss. Nick Duxbury slipped on his deck shoes and joined Toshiba for a day.

It is not often that you get to hold £3m, but here I am surging down the Solent at the helm of an ocean-going yacht. And not just any old standard sea skimmer that a well-heeled sailor could buy at the Boat Show. This is Toshiba, 60ft of wave warrior, which when you add on the costs of a nine-month race around the globe will have swallowed up the best part of £8m.

In truth, the Kiwi Chris Dickson, if not the world's top skipper then close to it, is at my elbow and the America's Cup legend Dennis Conner at my back, but that just adds to the responsibility for someone who learned all he knows about sailing from Rod Stewart. Right now, this would be a serious amount of kit and personnel to tip into the drink.

"Have you steered a boat before?" asks Dickson, who like most of the crew has one of those leather-tan faces that has been preserved in salt. Well, yes and no. I've held a dinghy tiller in my time, but never a real wheel of the sort that Errol Flynn would have given his host cutlass to be lashed to. "Right, drive it like a car then. Keep 50ft to the right of that red buoy and keep the angle at 27 degrees."

The first command is easy enough, for Toshiba, with mainsail and spinnaker raised, is remarkably responsive as though fitted with power steering. Avoiding the buoy is simple when you are a long way off, but a certain nervousness creeps in as the boat rapidly closes and we have to go so near?

The degrees bit is to do with keeping the angle of lean constant, Dickson does not like it to fluctuate and soon he is ordering small adjustments. The buoy reached, it's time to tack. "That will do," says Dickson, taking control as the 20 people on board prepare to scramble from one side to the other while Toshiba turns.

With the start barely five days away, you might have expected the crew to be edgy and have little time for jolly jaunts with the

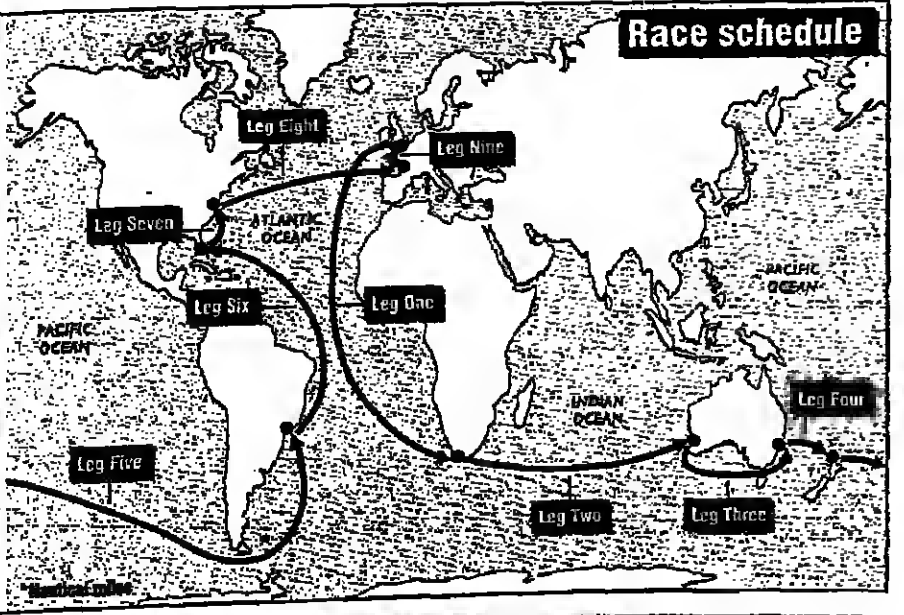
press. However, they could not have been more relaxed as they use the cruise to hone their skills - going through seven sail changes in two hours, accompanied by much intent gazing upwards. Even Conner, who has a reputation for being a sometimes prickly character, is at his most affable, despite his luggage not having followed him to Southampton from a weekend regatta in Sardinia.

"I'm sorry it's not cold, foggy and wet like you're used to," was the big American's welcome as we left the dock at Ocean Village. "We've got a San Diego day for you."

A good wind and a hazy sun made conditions perfect, and as we slipped past a huge container ship being led like a puppy by a tug, Toshiba dipped her port side and gathered speed. The Solent looks vast, but it is not big enough for a thoroughbred to be given her head. Even so, she moved with power and grace.

Heading back to London, an accident on the M3 closed the motorway. Sitting in my tin can, firmly anchored amid a wash of petrol fumes by a 10-mile traffic jam south of Bracknell, a thought strikes home...if only I had £3m.

Leg One	Southampton-Cape Town
Start	21 September 1997
ETA	22 October 1997 7,350 miles
Leg Two	Cape Town-Fremantle
Start	8 November 1997
ETA	24 November 1997 4,600
Leg Three	Fremantle-Sydney
Start	10 December 1997
ETA	22 December 1997 2,250
Leg Four	Sydney-Auckland
Start	4 January 1998
ETA	9 January 1998 1,270
Leg Five	Auckland-San Sebastian
Start	1 February 1998
ETA	23 February 1998 6,670
Leg Six	San Sebastian-Port Louis
Start	14 March 1998
ETA	2 April 1998 4,750
Leg Seven	Port Louis-Sailmare
Start	17 April 1998
ETA	22 April 1998 370
Leg Eight	Sailmare-La Rochelle
Start	3 May 1998
ETA	16 May 1998 3,390
Leg Nine	La Rochelle-Southampton
Start	22 May 1998
ETA	24 May 1998 450



HOCKEY

MacDonald adds power to Slough

Slough, the National League champions, travel to Southport to play Hightown in today's opening match of the season, strengthened by the inclusion of the Great Britain and Scottish international Sue MacDonald.

England's Lucy Cope returns after missing last season with injury problems. Absent will be Karen Brown and Helen Thornalley, recovering from injuries, and Sally Eyre, who is taking a year out to complete her studies.

Hightown's England junior international Caroline Gilbert and Helen Grant have moved to Olton Terravest while Maggie Souyave has retired.

Newly promoted Olton are likely to be short of Mandy Gatherer with an injured back but hope to have all their Under-21s available after the

World Junior Cup in Seoul with the exception of Lucilla Wright, who is resting.

Lucy Youngs has taken over the captaincy of Ipswich, disappointed that in spite of the good showing in both League and Cup last season and a Silver medal in the European Championships they have been unable to attract new players. It will be difficult to fill the gap left by the retirement of Vicky Dixon but the good news is that the former English international and past captain Sandie Lister and Tracy Fry are back in training.

Loughborough Students, newly promoted to Division One, will be strengthened with the arrival of Kate Sharland from Leicester and Ireland's Laura Brown.

— Bill Colwill



Damon Hill (right) talks with a mechanic before practice for the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday. Photograph: Allsport

MOTOR RACING

'Hijacked' Hill comes back to earth

Damon Hill confirmed his move to Jordan before returning to the Arrows camp for yesterday's official practice session for the Austrian Grand Prix. Derick Allsop in Zeltweg reports on the build-up to tomorrow's race.

Damon Hill could not have stage-managed it better for visual effect. He said he was on his bike from Arrows to Jordan, and good as his word, there he was, riding away from his stricken car in search of something better. That interruption to practice for tomorrow's Austrian Grand Prix here came after Hill had been formally introduced as Jordan's driver for the next two seasons, a deal said to be worth £10m to the Englishman.

Hill said he felt he did not have the time to wait for Arrows' fulfilment, and he and his new boss, Eddie Jordan, now anticipated forging a partnership that would win races and challenge for the world championship.

Jordan revealed that he had never lost contact with Hill after their negotiations broke down a year ago, and that they effectively reached an agreement in "bizarre" circumstances following the Italian Grand Prix a fortnight ago.

Hill had an arrangement to travel back with Arrows' owner, Tom Walkinshaw, but missed the flight. When Jordan stepped on to his sponsor's plane, he found an extra passenger and the chat took an inevitable course.

Jordan said: "Unbeknown to me, our pilot offered Damon a lift and the first I knew was when I got on board. By the time we got home, the deal was more or less done. You could say we hijacked each other."

According to Jordan, he was not in a position to make an announcement at that stage because he had a date in the High Court with Benetton over the services of the Italian driver Giancarlo Fisichella. Jordan admits he expected to lose the case but hoped he might retrieve some financial compensation that would help pay the bill for Hill.

Jordan's sponsors had already increased their contribution to the budget and Mugen-Honda, the team's engine partners from next season, had given their approval. When the court's ruling went against Jordan, Hill told Walkinshaw he would not be staying and Arrows signed Mika Salo.

Hill said: "My choice of team will provide me with the

perfect environment to win races and challenge for the championship. Jordan has established himself in the upper echelons of Formula One and they have employed me to take the final step.

"We have had a lot of difficulties at Arrows, but I am full of admiration for their determination and professionalism. They have a long-term future, but I'm not getting any younger and I have to get on."

Hill will partner Ralf Schumacher, younger brother of his old adversary Michael, and the drivers will have equal status. Jordan believes the German will be a willing pupil and form an effective partnership capable of taking on the best.

Jordan said: "We desperately needed a driver of Damon's stature. Now we have the perfect blend of a successful, experienced driver and an up and coming rookie. Ralf is bound to listen to a man who has won 21 races and the world championship."

"We have hired Damon to win races and the championship for us. No other reason. If we don't win races next year it will be a very bitter blow."

"I didn't have to eat humble pie in going back for Damon. Last year we weren't financially in a position to do a deal with him. This year we are. By concentrating on technical development we made it possible to make our priority this year the signing of a driver like Damon."

Hill returned to the Arrows camp to prepare for tomorrow's race and completed the day's practice in 11th place. At the top of the time-sheets were Williams-Renault's Heinz-Harald Frentzen, and Jacques Villeneuve, Michael Schumacher, who leads Villeneuve by 10 points in the standings, was a less comfortable seventh in his Ferrari. David Coulthard, winner of Italian Grand Prix, was sixth in a McLaren Mercedes. Eddie Irvine, in the other Ferrari, was 10th and Johnny Herbert, of Sauber-Petronas, was 12th.

Benetton announced yesterday that Austrian Alexander Wurz will partner Fisichella next season, leaving a question-mark over Gerhard Berger's Formula One future.

Benetton announced yesterday that Austrian Alexander Wurz will partner Fisichella next season, leaving a question-mark over Gerhard Berger's Formula One future.

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX (Zeltweg, tomorrow)
Official practice: 1:14:10.1 (G. Frentzen) (Renault); 1:15:27.2 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:15:52.4 (M. Schumacher) (Ferrari); 1:16:02.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:16:05.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:16:08.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:16:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:16:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:16:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:16:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:16:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:16:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:16:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:16:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:16:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:16:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:16:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:16:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:16:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:16:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:16:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:16:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:17:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:17:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:17:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:17:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:17:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:17:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:17:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:17:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:17:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:17:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:17:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:17:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:17:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:17:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:17:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:17:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:17:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:17:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:17:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:17:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:18:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:18:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:18:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:18:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:18:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:18:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:18:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:18:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:18:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:18:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:18:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:18:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:18:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:18:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:18:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:18:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:18:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:18:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:18:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:18:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:19:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:19:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:19:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:19:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:19:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:19:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:19:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:19:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:19:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:19:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:19:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:19:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:19:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:19:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:19:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:19:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:19:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:19:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:19:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:19:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:20:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:20:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:20:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:20:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:20:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:20:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:20:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:20:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:20:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:20:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:20:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:20:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:20:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:20:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:20:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:20:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:20:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:20:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:20:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:20:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:21:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:21:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:21:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:21:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:21:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:21:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:21:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:21:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:21:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:21:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:21:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:21:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:21:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:21:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:21:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:21:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:21:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:21:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:21:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:21:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:22:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:22:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:22:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:22:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:22:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:22:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:22:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:22:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:22:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:22:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:22:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:22:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:22:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:22:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:22:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:22:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:22:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:22:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:22:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:22:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:23:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:23:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:23:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:23:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:23:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:23:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:23:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:23:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:23:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:23:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:23:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:23:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:23:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:23:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:23:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:23:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:23:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:23:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:23:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:23:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:24:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:24:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:24:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:24:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:24:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:24:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:24:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:24:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:24:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:24:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:24:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:24:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:24:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:24:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:24:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:24:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:24:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:24:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:24:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:24:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:25:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:25:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:25:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:25:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:25:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:25:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:25:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:25:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:25:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:25:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:25:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:25:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:25:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:25:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:25:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:25:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:25:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:25:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:25:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:25:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:26:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:26:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:26:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:26:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:26:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:26:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:26:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:26:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:26:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:26:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:26:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:26:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:26:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:26:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:26:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:26:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:26:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:26:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:26:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:26:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:27:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:27:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:27:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:27:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:27:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:27:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:27:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:27:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:27:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:27:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:27:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:27:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:27:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:27:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:27:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:27:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:27:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:27:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:27:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:27:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:28:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:28:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:28:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:28:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:28:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:28:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:28:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:28:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:28:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:28:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:28:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:28:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:28:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:28:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:28:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:28:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:28:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:28:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:28:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:28:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:29:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:29:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:29:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:29:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:29:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:29:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:29:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:29:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:29:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:29:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:29:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:29:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:29:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:29:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:29:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:29:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:29:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:29:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:29:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:29:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:30:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:30:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:30:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:30:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:30:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:30:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:30:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:30:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:30:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:30:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:30:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:30:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:30:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:30:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:30:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:30:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:30:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:30:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:30:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:30:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:31:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:31:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:31:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:31:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:31:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:31:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:31:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:31:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:31:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:31:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:31:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:31:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:31:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:31:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:31:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:31:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:31:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:31:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:31:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:31:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:32:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:32:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:32:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:32:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:32:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:32:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:32:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:32:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:32:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:32:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:32:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:32:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:32:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:32:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:32:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:32:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:32:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:32:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:32:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:32:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:33:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:33:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:33:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:33:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:33:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:33:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:33:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:33:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:33:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:33:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:33:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:33:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:33:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:33:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:33:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:33:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:33:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:33:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:33:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:33:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:34:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:34:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:34:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:34:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:34:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:34:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:34:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:34:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:34:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:34:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:34:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:34:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:34:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:34:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:34:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:34:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:34:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:34:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:34:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:34:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:35:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:35:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:35:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:35:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:35:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:35:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:35:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:35:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:35:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:35:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:35:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:35:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:35:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:35:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:35:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:35:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:35:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:35:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:35:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:35:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:36:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:36:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:36:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:36:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:36:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:36:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:36:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:36:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:36:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:36:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:36:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:36:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:36:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:36:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:36:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:36:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:36:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:36:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:36:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:36:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:37:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:37:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:37:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:37:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:37:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:37:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:37:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:37:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:37:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:37:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:37:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:37:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:37:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:37:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:37:42.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:37:45.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:37:48.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:37:51.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:37:54.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:37:57.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:38:00.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:38:03.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:38:06.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:38:09.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:38:12.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:38:15.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:38:18.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:38:21.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:38:24.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:38:27.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:38:30.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:38:33.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:38:36.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:38:39.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:38:42.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:38:45.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:38:48.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:38:51.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:38:54.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:38:57.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:39:00.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:39:03.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:39:06.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:39:09.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:39:12.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:39:15.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:39:18.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:39:21.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:39:24.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:39:27.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:39:30.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:39:33.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:39:36.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:39:39.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:39:42.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:39:45.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:39:48.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:39:51.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:39:54.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:39:57.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:40:00.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:40:03.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:40:06.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:40:09.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:40:12.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:40:15.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:40:18.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:40:21.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:40:24.4 (E. Irvine) (Ferrari); 1:40:27.4 (J. Herbert) (Sauber); 1:40:30.4 (D. Salo) (Arrows); 1:40:33.4 (M. Salo) (Arrows); 1:40:36.4 (J. Villeneuve) (Ferrari); 1:40:39.4 (D. Coulthard) (McLaren); 1:40:42.4 (E. Irvine)

...the cat

22/PHOTO-SHOOT



A summer weekend on two wheels

Brands Hatch on a late summer's Sunday is two-wheel heaven. Many of the thousands who travelled to the Kent circuit last weekend to marvel as the veteran Scot, Niall Mackenzie, continued his purple patch on a purple Yamaha by winning the British Superbike Championship for the second successive season have a distinct advantage over other sporting spectators.

For they live the dream: the motorcycles they ride are near replicas of the machines which the professionals hurl around at breathtaking velocity.

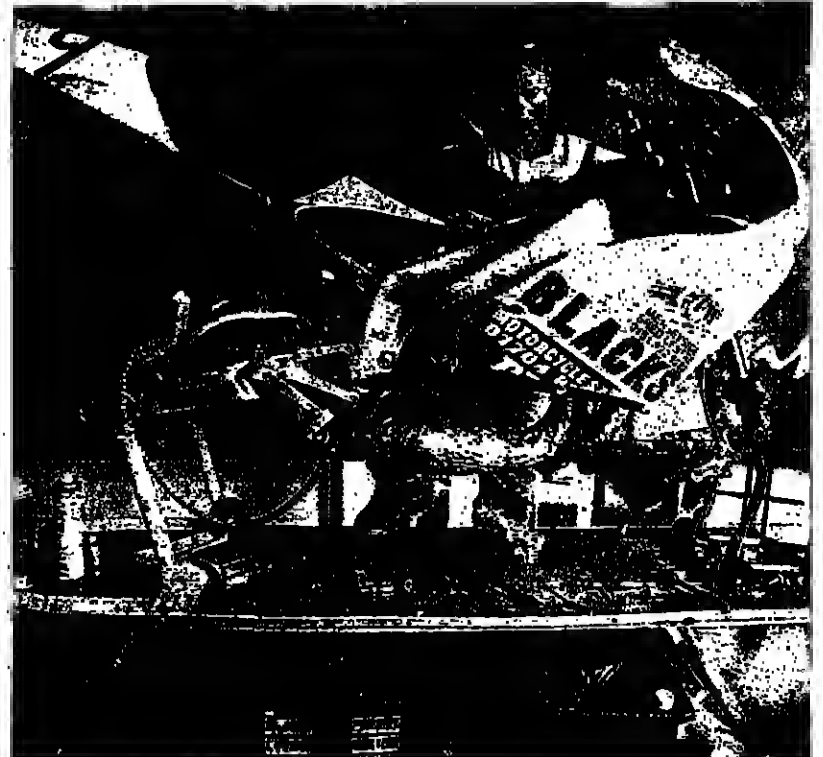
It is the key to Superbikes' popularity in Britain over the blue riband, grand prix circuit. That was illustrated last month when some 60,000 spectators - British motorsport's second biggest crowd after the Formula One circus at Silverstone - arrived at Brands Hatch on a fleet of

bikes to cheer Carl Fogarty in the World Superbike event. Britain's most celebrated and accomplished rider since Barry Sheene is another reason why the class's popularity has mushroomed over the past five years: in 500cc GPs there are no Britons riding the handbuilt, infernally overpowered machines; in Superbikes, bulldog Carl beats allcomers with metronomic regularity. And after cheering the Blackburn Bullet to victory, for a relatively modest £12,000 it is possible to ride away from the circuit on a facsimile of his scarlet Ducati 916 dream machine.

If watching sport is a vicarious experience, then the latest Italian, British and Japanese road bikes bring anyone with a full licence and enough cash close to the thrills of professional road racing. Manna on a motorcycle.

— Andrew Martin

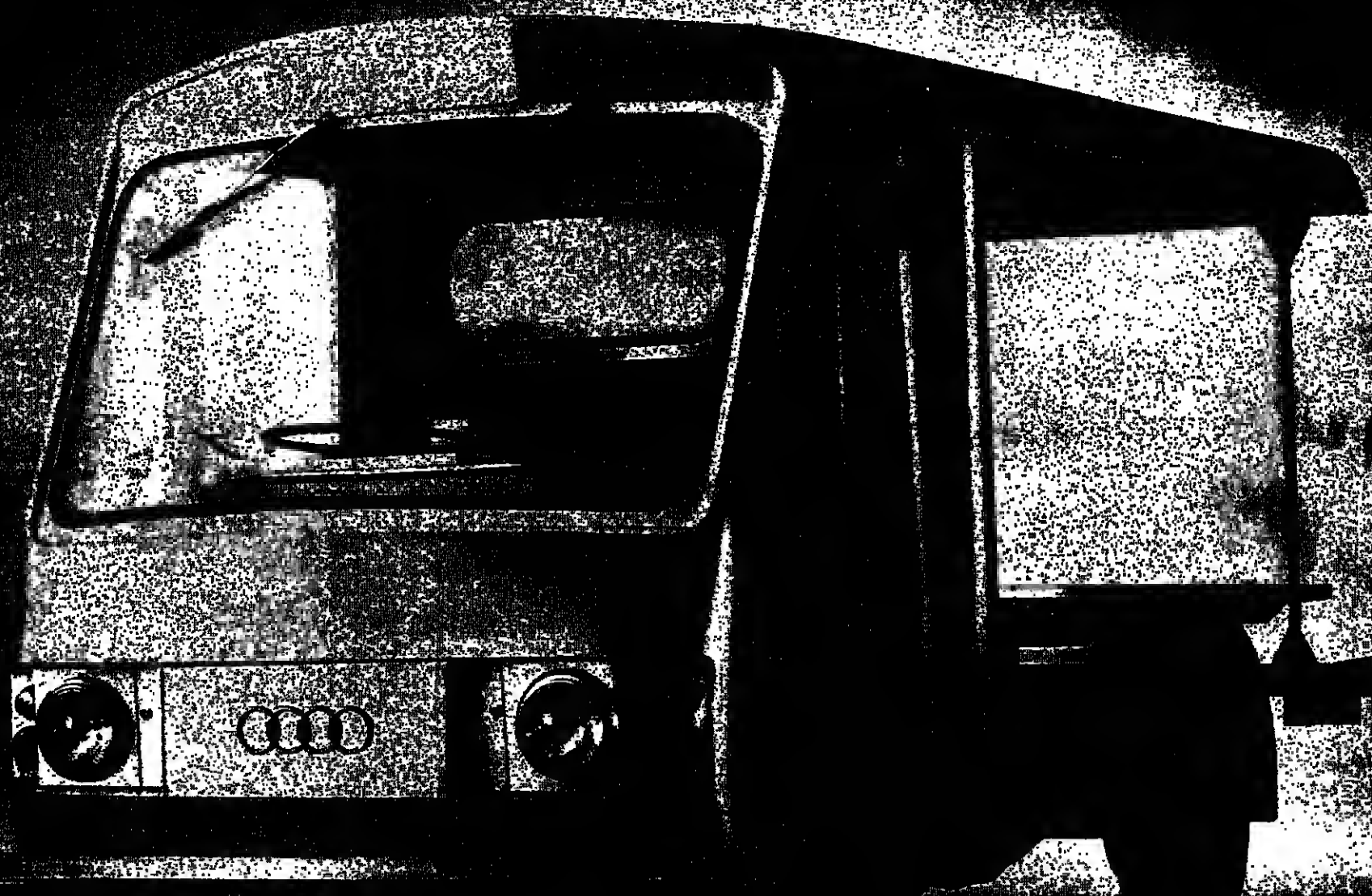
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT HALLAM



Superbikes day at Brands Hatch (clockwise, from top): Chris Walker leads the field round Druids bend on the first lap of the second British Superbikes Championship race; Eric Jones prepares his son Paul's machine for the Shell Advance 125 British championship event; two-wheels heavily outnumber four in the car park; a novel way to keep helmets safe; and Ian Simpson rides high on his Ducati in the first Superbikes race.



JAN 16 1998



Can we race now?

Audi's quattro technology is so superior it's been banned worldwide from the 1998 Touring Car Championships. To even things up perhaps we should race something with three wheel drive. Ernie the Milkman is on standby.

Audi 
Vorsprung durch Technik

24/FOOTBALL

'Mick was a man of his time and bestrode it like a Hercules'



THE GAFFER TAPES

Big Mick was one of the legendary figures, but his team were struggling. There were two schools of thought about this. One held that far from losing his touch he'd built a useful side at The Old Cornfield, while turning the club around from bankruptcy and building the country's best youth system. They were only bottom, pointless and goalless because of a series of unfortunate injuries, poor refereeing decisions and downright bad luck. This was the view I held.

The other theory was that Big Mick was a relic from the days when the coach was a vehicle not a visionary. When a sheepskin coat, a handful of caps - far rather than international - and a few choice words of Anglo-Saxon were all a manager needed. He was still thumbing through the Roth-

mans while his counterparts were checking airline timetables. The only videos he watched were on his own with a can of lager on channel 24 in his hotel room, not with the back five and an isotonic drink. Mick had to go before he took the club, and his share price, down for good. This was the view I told Sir Hiram Firem when we co-incidentally met at his golf club last week.

Still, I was surprised when Mick called me this morning in tears to say he'd got the sack. I'd have liked to have lent a sympathetic ear, but I had Sir Hiram on call waiting so I told Mick I'd put in a good word for him if the chance arose.

True to my word I was able to do that within hours at the press conference. "When the history books are written 'Big Mick' will go down as one of

the great managers at the Old Cornfield," I said. "He was a man of his time and bestrode it like a Hercules."

I'm sure Mick will have been touched by that, he always liked those Italian players. I'm sure he would've understood I was only trying to be honest when I was forced to add: "However, the game has moved on and this club has to do the same. Sir Hiram, understandably in view of Big Mick's achievements, stood by his manager a little too long. Not Sir Hiram should be blamed, loyalty is much undervalued in football today and I just hope I can save him from paying for it by clearing up the awful mess Mick has landed me with."

I could see the press boys lit up when I said that last bit so I had to add, slowly in case

their tape recorders were not working: "I tell you lads, I've been called into some tricky jobs in my time, but this is the worst. We may have only played five matches but already a very hard season is ahead of us and merely surviving will be an achievement to rank with the 1987 promotion I gained with Blackfarm Rovers."

They were scribbling away now, so I finished with: "I'm going to need all my experience. I've learned a lot in this game, from Bill Shankly, Ron Knease and, dear Big Mick himself, and I'm going to need to draw on all of it. Now, who wants some of this champagne?"

After a few glasses with some of my old muckers, and some non-attributable examples of Mick's neglect, I had a quick word with the physio. It seems Shaun Prouse, England's

midfield passing maestro who has been injured for two years, should be back on Saturday. So should centre-half and captain Cliff Phace.

Ego Massive, the wayward Paraguayan striker, is back from World Cup duty and goalkeeper Ivor Panic's suspension is over. Since we've played the top five clubs already, things are definitely looking up.

Oh, there was a good omen too. No mention in dispatches in yesterday's "bung" inquiry. Not that I was nervous, mind you, but one or two generous gestures in the past may have been misinterpreted. Must go, the mobile's ringing and I think it's my contact in Norway.

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PREVIEW

Tough day for the grey-hair brigade

This weekend's matches could have tenuous implications for several managers. Phil Shaw takes a look at the games which carry the danger of premature ageing.

Fabrizio Ravanelli is to return from Italy following the failure of transfer talks with Milan, but not in time to ease Middlesbrough's injury woes as they play host to a Birmingham City team vying for the First Division leadership.

Bryan Robson said that Ravanelli had assured him he would be back at the Riverside Stadium next week. The Boro manager will then discuss the player's position with the chairman, Steve Gibson. Today, Robson welcomes back Paul Merson, who missed the Coca-Cola Cup defeat of Barnet, but could be without as many as 10 players.

Ravanelli does not belong to the "grey hair club", which would be surprising had Kevin

Keegan not coined the expression to describe the effects of management. Chris Kamara, who has yet to display the outward symptoms, currently sits on top of the table but could find his Bradford City side not even in the play-off zone by the time they play at Charlton tomorrow.

Kamara will take keen interest in West Brom v Swindon, the clubs directly below Bradford. A draw would suit him nicely, although they have not managed one in seven meetings at The Hawthorns.

Two of the more literally-minded members of Keegan's club face especially important fixtures: Peter Reid's Sunderland, having highlighted the volatility of the season by winning 4-0 at Bradford and 1-0 at Birmingham, now receive a Wolves side themselves only three points off pole position.

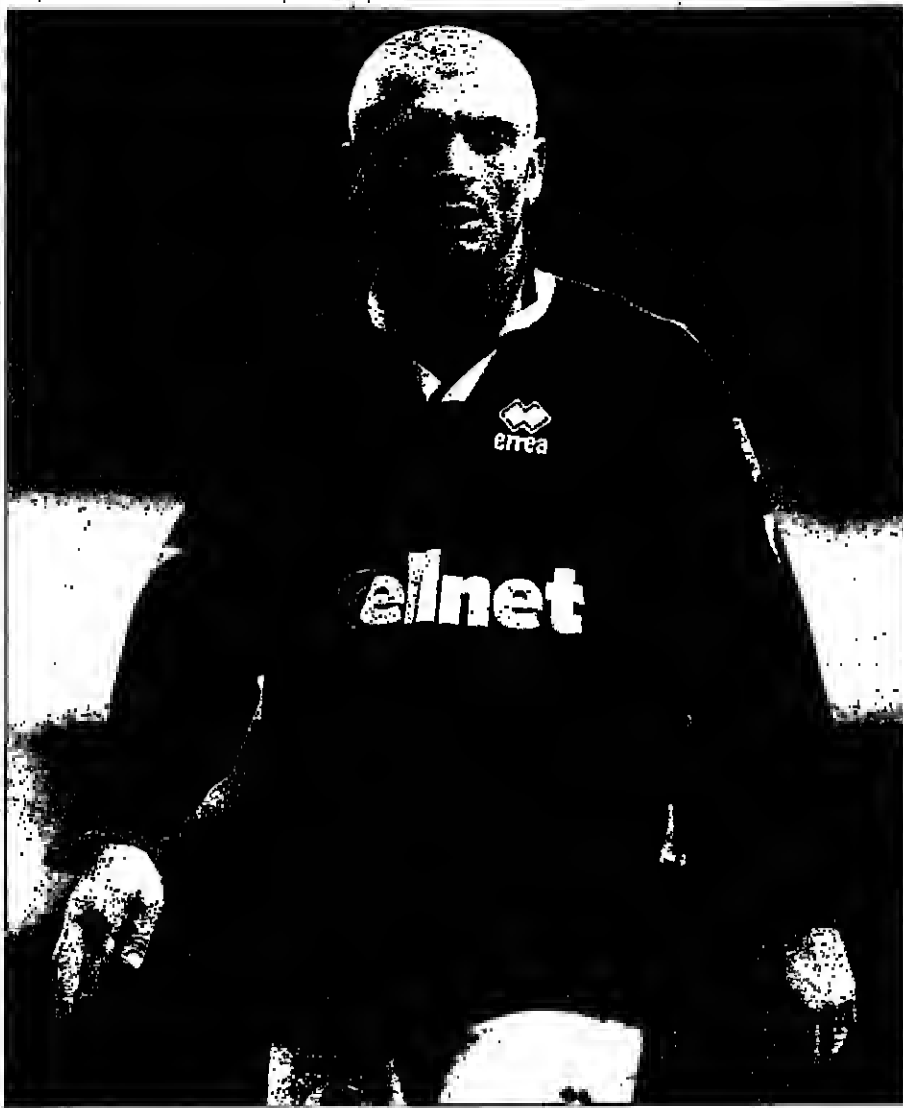
Mike Walker, who saw Norwich leak four goals without reply at home to Charlton in midweek, has the onerous task of trying to halt Manchester City's mini-revival.

The Norwich manager looks a model of security compared with Stockport's Gary Megson and Huddersfield's Brian Horton. Their teams, occupying the bottom two places and without a League win, face each other at Edgeley Park, where the natives are reportedly restless.

Bruce Grobbelaar is in line for his Oxford debut against Sheffield United, 48 hours after the FA charged him with breaking its rules on betting.

Chris Waddle could be forgiven for wishing he had joined Nottingham Forest last spring. Burnley have provided a nightmarish start to what few doubt would be a glittering career in management - one goal in seven Second Division games - although history offers hope today.

Forty-nine derbies with Preston at Turf Moor have not produced a 0-0 draw. What's more, Waddle has a new striker - Gerry Creaney, on loan from Manchester City - while Preston conceded six at Blackburn in the week. It may not quite be time to reach for the Grecian 2000.



Fabrizio Ravanelli: Due back at Middlesbrough next week

Photograph: Empics

Joy and commitment form partnership in pursuit of acceptance

FAN'S EYE VIEW

No 224
WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
BY
LORRAINE
ASHARD

"Twenty-two blokes kicking a bag of air around," was my brother's response when he learnt that I'd taken up football. A Philistine's description of the "Beautiful Game," I agree, but not as predictable as the usual "women can't play football". And it plagues me because most people that say that "women can't play football" have never witnessed a women's football match. After all, the average attendance figure for a women's footy match never exceeds five, and that includes the ref and linesmen. You might occasionally spot one man and his dog loitering on the sidelines - his dog being his alibi should anyone catch him actually watching the game.

But while most find the concept of a woman playing football little more than a novelty, to some it is an unwelcome aberration, an affront to the very masculinity of the sport. One only dare mention the

word "football" and "women" in the same sentence and grown men turn into Alf Garnet, spouting indignation in every direction.

However, people are becoming more receptive to women's football. It may be a sign of the times that a leading sports manufacturer included a women's match in its recent advertising campaign. There are also football boots, designed exclusively for women, if the makers are to be believed. We even have our own publication, *On the Ball*, a monthly magazine dedicated to the women's game.

On a personal level, I was invited to play for my works team (all male, of course). Normally, I would never play with or against men, but on this occasion I jumped at the opportunity because I knew I could gain a rare insight into the men's game. So, what exactly are the differences? I noticed within the first two minutes that

I couldn't hope to keep pace with the lads. Even the unfittest caused a problem because of the difference in physique.

So unless you happen to be Lightning from *Gladiators*, you'll never be able to match a man for power. As a result of this deficit, I was left standing whenever an opponent used a word of pace on me. I banded with the idea of "taking him out" (and I don't mean for a spot of lunch), but decided against this as I suspected I'd come off a lot worse.

But this doesn't mean that women don't tackle. Football is a physical game, whether it be men or women, and tackling is unavoidable. I stuck my foot in front of an oncoming forward bearing down at goal, "bear" being the operative word and, to the delight of my teammates, I had nicked the ball. A Bobby Moore. It was stupidity more than judgement, but I'd proved I could tackle.

The uninitiated sometimes ask me if women possess the technical capabilities needed, namely heading and chesting the ball. I'll freely admit that I've seen girls shy away from an aerial challenge, preferring to relinquish possession. However, I've also seen many men do exactly the same. Personally, I love heading the ball. It really is more to do with personal preference than gender.

Chesting seems to cause the most curiosity among the sceptical. Can we do it? Does it hurt? It's as easy for me to chest the ball as any man - possibly because I have the same size chest. For the more generously endowed, it works the same way. It doesn't hurt, as long as you do it right. I have seen some women run for several yards with the ball precariously balanced on their chest, but this seems more an advantage than a hindrance to me. I will concede that there

are some women who pose more of a threat to themselves than the opposition, their ample cleavage threatening to knock them out every time they run. But there's nothing a good sports bra won't fix.

For the pervasively interested who ask how the manager gets on in the dressing-room should he be a bloke. Well, it's simple. He knocks on the door before entering.

The women's game really does have the same ingredients as the men's - flowing football, full-blooded tackles and spectacular goals (sometimes). So, while we strive for acceptance in the game, we play, not for momentary gain, but for the sheer joy of it. I'm confident anyone who's worked with a women's team will tell you women are totally committed. We don't want to beat you at your game, we want to join you. God bless all those who love the "Beautiful Game", man or woman.

SIDELINES

Everybody needs good neighbours

Wimbledon and Palace were snuggling up in terms of trading personnel long before they started cohabiting at Selhurst Park.

As long ago as 1931, Palace signed Howard Barnes and Oswald Parry from the amateurs of Plough Lane. John Cartwright, later a top FA coach, took the opposite route 32 years later, but the recent, almost incestuous relationship started at boardroom level. Ron Noades, having steered Wimbledon into the League, became Palace chairman in 1980. After he went back for manager Dario Gradi, players began moving between the clubs like Dario Gradi, players began moving between the clubs like

Hodges, Steve Ketteridge and Steve Galliers set the trend, the latter soon switching back. Eric Young and Andy Thorn also went from SW19 to SE25, Thorn going via Newcastle before returning to Wimbledon from Palace. Dave Bassett, who had guided Wimbledon into the top flight, did little to maintain the tradition while in charge of Palace, where former Dons captain Ray Lewington remains as coach. Given the "immutable law of the ex" decrees that players invariably score against their old club, Palace should pay special heed today to Neil Sullivan's booming kicks, the Wimbledon keeper having swapped camps for a solitary loan appearance five years ago.

THE EX-FILES

Ten things that Derby County's Costa Rican Paulo Wanchope might be missing today



FEAR FROM HOME

- 1 Butterflies. Costa Rica has more than 750 exotic varieties.
- 2 A cup of Dorado. Coffee is the major product of the "Rich Coast".
- 3 The "eternal spring" climate of San Jose: 85 degrees year round and sunny. Much like Derby's, really, with warmth and sunshine added.
- 4 Gallo pinto (literally "speckled rooster"), the national staple dish of rice and beans.
- 5 Rainforests with parrots, monkeys, iguanas, pumas and the unique golden toad, said to resemble Jim Smith but with only two chins.
- 6 Bullfighting: a compassionate variety, in which bulls are never killed.
- 7 Guaro, the local fire-water. The strongest home-brew varieties act as aphrodisiacs to those they don't kill.
- 8 Playa Uva, a glorious surfing beach.
- 9 The Arenal volcano, whose red-hot rock showers illuminate the night sky, rather like the Pride Park floodlights (except when Wimbledon visit).
- 10 Earthquakes.

NAME OF THE GAME No 1: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Sheffield Wednesday are the only major club in Britain to take their name from a day of the week. The fifth oldest club in the F.Emiership or Football League, they were formed in 1867 by members of the Sheffield Wednesday Cricket Club, who met on Wednesday half-holidays. The name stuck until they became Sheffield Wednesday in 1929.

THIS WEEK

On 21 September 1974, Manchester United beat Bristol Rovers 2-0 to retain their spot at the top of the Second Division, while Blackburn Rovers were in eighth place - in the Third Division. Queen's Park Rangers, still reeling from the sale of captain Terry Venables to Crystal Palace, lost to 2-1 to Newcastle. Newcastle's Malcolm MacDonald said afterwards that QPR's Stan Bowles (a fellow England international) had been deliberately trying to get Newcastle players in trouble with the referee. "Football is coming to something when a player does that to a fellow professional. He's become a cry baby," he said. Bobby Charlton, player-manager of Third Division Preston, was named as a contender for the Footballer of the Month Award.

HISTORY LESSON

Forget Vinnie Jones and Ian Wright. When it comes to indiscipline surely nobody could match Frank Barson, who played for Barnsley, Aston Villa, Manchester United, Hartlepool United and Wigan Borough. Suspended at least 12 times in his career, Barson was regularly disciplined by his own clubs. On one occasion he was even said to have pulled a gun on his manager at Aston Villa. Barson's notoriety reached a high in 1928, when he was banned for six months for kicking an opponent while playing for Watford. Five thousand fans took up his cause by signing a petition, which was delivered to an unsympathetic Football Association by the mayor of Watford. The petition for the Footballer of the Month Award.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Tore Pedersen (St Paul to Blackburn)
Paul Shaw (Aston Villa to Millwall)
Mark Flah (Lazio to Bolton)
Mike Whitlow (Leicester to Bolton)
Paul Wilkinson (Barnsley to Millwall)
Leon Townsend (Tottenham to Brentford)
Ian Pearce (Blackburn to West Ham)
Kevin Gage (Preston to Hull)
David Fisher (Middlesbrough to East Fife)
Derek Fleming (Dundee to Dundee)
George Shaw (Dundee to Dundee)
Loans
Paul Bodin (Reading to Wycombe)
Steven Hawes (Sheff Wed to Doncaster)
Vince Overton (Bury to Shrewsbury)
Colin West (Leyton Orient to Northampton)

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman
Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.



AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT METCALF

Now Maradona wants to emigrate to Cuba

Argentina

Despite launching yet another comeback last weekend, Diego Maradona declared on Thursday that his retirement is imminent once more - and that he wants to defect to Cuba.

Maradona, who played in two World Cup finals for Argentina, said: "I'm close to retiring. I'd go to Cuba for Fidel [Castro], the warm climate and because I get on very well with the Cubans." He frequently visits Cuba and counts Castro, the country's leader, as a close friend.

The 36-year-old scored from the penalty spot as his club, Boca Juniors, beat Newell's Old Boys 2-1 in Buenos Aires last Sunday. Maradona had been provisionally suspended by the Argentine Football Association after failing a drugs test which followed Boca's first game of the season, but last week a federal court ordered the ban to be lifted pending an investigation into the test sought by his lawyer. It was the third time Maradona, who has served two 15-month suspensions since 1990, had failed a drugs test.

Maradona's sudden interest

in emigrating may well be linked to what happened on Wednesday, when a Buenos Aires appeals court rejected his plea to be judged by a federal court for wounding journalists with an air-gun in 1994. The case will now be heard by a provincial court, which is more likely to impose a jail term rather than sentence him to do social work.

Egypt

Tomorrow's final of the Fifa World Under-17 Championship in Cairo, between Brazil and Ghana, will be overshadowed by controversy. Ghana beat Spain 2-1 in Thursday's semi-final - which was not a result that the Spanish coach was happy with. Juan Santisteban accused the Africans of packing their side with over-aged players.

"I can recognize at least eight of them who were members of the Ghanaian Under-17 team in the 1991 World Cup, which would make them 23 years old now," an angry Santisteban alleged. "But the Ghanaian team is well known for bringing older players, and professionals." He did admit that Ghana deserved to win.

Ghana's coach, Emmanuel Afranie, did not comment on Santisteban's accusations.

Spain

Jorge Valdano lost his job as coach of Valencia this week - because he cannot count. In Sunday's 2-1 defeat to Celta Vigo Valdano wrongly introduced a fifth foreigner as a substitute, was forced to remove him by the referee, and had to watch his side complete the game with 10 players. "I ask for forgiveness because I am the only one responsible," Valdano said. In vain...

سكتا من الاجل

United fear falling victim to the Fenerbahce factor

Following their successful European exertions, the portents are good for the chasing pack to make some headway on the Premiership's defending champions: Phil Shaw looks at the weekend ahead, while Nick Harris (below) analyses the programme match by match.

Premature as it may be for the pretenders to Manchester United's crown to be clutching at straws, those pursuing the Premiership leaders will put their faith in the Fenerbahce factor when Alex Ferguson's side visit Bolton today.

Last autumn, four days after beating the Turkish champions in Istanbul, United were bumbled 5-0 at Newcastle. They then succumbed 6-3 at Southampton, relinquishing a 40-year unbeaten home record in Europe to Fenerbahce and went down at home to Chelsea, all in less than a fortnight.

A coincidence, perhaps, but the record reveals that three of United's five League defeats came on the back of exertions in Europe. Further evidence of

the attritional effects of the Champions' League came when they also let West Ham and Middlesbrough snatch draws in the final 10 minutes.

While this week's 3-0 success in Slovakia did not stretch United unduly, the party did not touch down at Manchester until 2am on Thursday. Ferguson, who has often seemed to be demanding preferential treatment from the fixture-makers, is doubtless relieved that the follow-up game involves minimal travelling.

Having said that, the United manager would not have picked a derby against a team bursting to gain their inaugural victory at the Reebok Stadium. Bolton have another, powerful incentive: town pride

was burt by United's 6-0 stroll at Borden Park 18 months ago.

Colin Todd is likely to bleed Mike Whitlow, a left-back freed by Bolton as a teenager but re-signed from Leicester for £500,000 yesterday. There will also be a debut for a Wanderer called Fish - Mark of that ilk - after the South African centre-back's £2m move from Lazio.

Ferguson, whose strikers account for just three of United's 12 goals, could turn to the fit-again Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Teddy Sheringham, spotted in Kosice testing his recovery from a rib injury by crashing into a tackle-bag like a rugby prop, is also in the frame.

Welcome as that news will be for Glenn Hoddle, given the unavailability of Alan Shearer

and possibly Les Ferdinand for next month's crucial World Cup qualifier in Italy, the England manager might be tempted to look in on Southampton.

Matthew Le Tissier is in the home squad for the first time since breaking an elbow in pre-season, and a spectacular re-entry might just put him in the reckoning for Rome. The other attraction is the likely return to Liverpool's attack of Robbie Fowler, who fell out of favour with Hoddle before his options began to be depleted.

Liverpool, who were embroiled in a sapping Anglo-Scottish struggle at Celtic on Tuesday, tended to win their matches after Continental combat last season, although their heaviest reverse, 3-0 at

bottom-placed Blackburn Rovers, followed the 6-3 win over Swiss club Sion.

It should be pointed out, too, that Newcastle had been in Budapest prior to that epic rout of Manchester United. Now, having exceeded expectations in their triumph against Catalonia's representative XI, the Scottish national team take on the East End of London. West Ham introduce Ian Pearce against Faustino Asprilla after his £2.3m move from Blackburn.

The capital's early challenges, Chelsea and Arsenal, tangle tomorrow, having endured mixed fortunes in Europe. The rival managers, Ruud Gullit and Arsene Wenger, will send out line-ups largely devoid of Englishmen. But exciting as

the prospect of Gianfranco Zola and Dennis Bergkamp pulling the strings may be, Gullit's predecessor, Hoddle, would probably settle for Ian Wright emerging unscathed by controversy or injury.

Another sign of the times was the sight of Everton and Tottenham - self-elected members of the "Big Five" before Newcastle blew that conceit out of the water - scraping slender Coca-Cola Cup wins over Scunthorpe and Carlisle respectively, while supposedly lesser brethren were stepping out in Madrid and Bordeaux.

Everton contest points with Barnsley for the first time in 45 years knowing that anything less than victory would prompt severe unrest among the Good-

ison Park faithful. Howard Kendall knows Danny Wilson's wiles all too well from his previous job, Barnsley having embarrassed Sheffield United twice last season.

Spurs would have been in crisis had they not scored two late goals to win 3-2 against their Second Division visitors. Calls for the head of Gerry Francis, first heard during the collapse at Leicester, could surface again if they labour against Blackburn.

Yet the manager under the greatest pressure is David Pleat. Sheffield Wednesday took maximum points from the first four games a year ago, but receive Coventry lying 19th and smarting from a 2-0 defeat at Grimsby.

Aston Villa v Derby

Yorke 2
Leading scorer
Last season: 2-0
Sarridge, Evans
Powell, Hunt
Wanchope 1

Aston Villa's Yugoslav midfielder Sasa Curcic is likely to start his first match of the season, having impressed with his appearance as a second-half substitute against Bordeaux in Tuesday's 0-0 Uefa Cup tie. Simon Grayson, who was taken off against Bordeaux after falling ill, has recovered and Brian Little has an otherwise fit squad to choose from as his side go in search of their third win in a row.

Danish international Jacob Laursen will play for Derby despite having a broken nose. The defender missed the Rams' mid-week Coca-Cola Cup victory over Southend after suffering the broken nose in last week's 3-1 win over Everton but has declared himself fit. Lee Carsley should return after recovering from a dead leg, as should Stefano Erario (hamstring) and Igor Simac (knee). Darryl Powell, who is due for a scan on a knee injury, has been ruled out and defender Matt Carbon is out for six weeks after he damaged his Achilles in training. Derby are looking for their first away points of the season after 1-0 defeats at Blackburn and Tottenham.

Bolton v Manchester Utd

Blake 3
Leading scorer
Last season: No fixture
Cole, Keane
Beckham 2

South African defender Mark Fish should make his debut for Bolton after finally being granted a work permit. Mike Whitlow, signed yesterday from Leicester for £500,000, could also start, helping to alleviate an injury crisis that has seen half the squad in for treatment in the past week. Alan Thompson (ankle), Gerry Taggart (hamstring) and Scott Sellars (thigh strain) are all doubtful, while Robbie Elliott (leg) and Neil Cox (hamstring) are out. John McGinlay is expected to have recovered from an Achilles strain.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Manchester United's leading goalscorer last season, is likely to be in the squad. The Norwegian striker has not played since taking a kick on his ankle during a pre-season friendly with Internazionale. Teddy Sheringham could play after recovering from cracked ribs, and Ryan Giggs may return, after missing the mid-week Champions' League win against Kosice in Slovakia because of a hamstring problem. United will wait to see whether David Beckham suffers any reaction to his groin injury.

Everton v Barnsley

Stuart 2
Leading scorer
Last season: No fixture
Redfern 3

Howard Kendall names Nick Barnby in his starting line-up despite an argument between the pair last week. Barnby was on the bench when Everton lost 3-1 at Derby and was angry that he had not been called upon when striker Michael Branch was injured. Neville Southall should return in goal and Danny Williamson should have recovered from a groin strain but Gareth Farrelly is doubtful (knee). Midfielder Joe Parkinson will have another operation on his knee injury next month and is unlikely to play again until the New Year.

Barnsley manager Danny Wilson is without five potential first-team players for today's trip to Goodison after a recent spate of injuries. Andy Liddell, Nicky Eaden and Jovo Bosancic all have thigh strains. John Hendrie is still sidelined with a hamstring problem and Arjan de Zeeuw is doubtful after needing eight stitches in his knee following last weekend's defeat against Aston Villa. Goalkeeper David Watson returns to the squad after a long lay-off due to concussion and bruised kidneys and could press Lars Leese for a starting place.

Leeds v Leicester

Wallace 4
Leading scorer
Last season: 3-0
Heskey, Marshall
Bloor, Walsh 2

Leeds manager George Graham is set to name an unchanged side following Tuesday's 3-1 Coca-Cola Cup win over Bristol City. Winger Bruno Ribeiro is in contention for a starting place after coming on and scoring in midweek. Dutch defender Robert Moleenaar has already overcome a groin strain. Winger Lee Sharpe will see a specialist at the end of next week, about a pre-season knee injury which has kept him out of action so far this term. Leeds will be looking to build on last Sunday's 4-3 win over Blackburn, which ended a run of three defeats and no goals.

Leicester's Ian Marshall, who scored in the 2-1 Uefa Cup first leg defeat to Athletic Madrid on Tuesday, is hoping to play despite suffering a gash to his calf in Spain. He needed seven stitches, but has told manager Martin O'Neill that he is fit, which would mean no place at the start for Steve Clark. Leicester captain Steve Walsh, who has led the Foxes to fifth place in the Premiership with 11 points from their first six games, is doubtful with a hamstring injury.

Sheffield Wed v Coventry

Carbone 4
Leading scorer
Last season: 0-0
Dublin 3

Sheffield Wednesday, who lost 2-0 at Grimsby in the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek and are second from bottom of the Premiership, could have David Hirst back if he passes a fitness test on a calf injury. Striker Ritchie Humphreys will also have a test after being out with an ankle injury suffered in the reserves. Benito Carbone is still out, completing a three-match suspension.

Coventry City manager Gordon Strachan will delay his team selection until immediately before today's match to give more time for his strikers Dion Dublin (knee) and Darren Huckerby (ankle) to recover from injury. They were both missed during the midweek Coca-Cola Cup tie at the Second Division club Blackpool, who were called upon to deputise on Tuesday, will fill in again if either of the first-choice pair fail fitness tests. Coventry, who have yet to win away from home this season, have gained all their eight points from their four home games.

...AND STATISTICS

How Wimbledon have narrowed the gap

When they moved into Selhurst Park in 1991, Wimbledon were very much the junior partners in their ground-sharing schism with Crystal Palace. The fact that Joe Kinnear's team go into today's match between the two sides as clear favourites is a clear indication of how the balance of power has shifted.

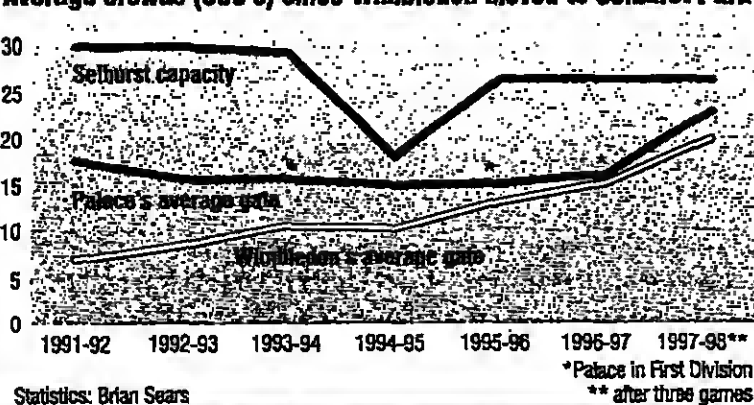
While Palace have yo-yoed between the First Division and the Premiership, Wimbledon have firmly established themselves in the top flight. Moreover, having been unable to keep up with the Virnie Joneses on the pitch, Palace have also struggled to match Wimbledon off it.

In the first season of ground-sharing - when the two clubs were both in the top division - Palace's average gate (17,618) was more than double Wimbledon's (6,905). The gap has narrowed every year since then to the point where Wimbledon were within 1,000 of Palace's average last season, although the gulf has widened again since Palace's return to the Premiership. Last season Palace averaged 16,085 compared to Wimbledon's 15,158.

There appear to be two specific factors behind the trend: Wimbledon's success, particularly when measured against Palace's inconsistency, plus the fact that for many visiting fans, unable to buy tickets for their own clubs' sell-out home games, an away match at Selhurst Park offers a rare chance to see their team in action.

The general rise in Premiership gates is also clearly a factor. When the two teams last met in the Premiership in 1995 only 8,635 attended. Today that figure is likely to be double.

Average crowds (000's) since Wimbledon moved to Selhurst Park



FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

		Home					Away					Form <small>(last result on right)</small>					Upcoming matches					
		P	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L					
1	Manchester Utd	6	18	+9	3	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	Today Bolton (H) 24 Sept Chelsea (H) 27 Sept Leeds (H) 4 Oct Crystal Palace (H)				
2	Blackburn	6	13	+10	2	1	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	6	1	0	0	Today Tottenham (A) 24 Sept Leicester (A) 28 Sept Coventry (H) 4 Oct Wimbledon (A)				
3	Chelsea	6	12	+10	1	0	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	Tomorrow Chelsea (A) 24 Sept West Ham (H) 27 Sept Everton (H) 4 Oct Barnsley (A)				
4	Arsenal	6	12	+7	2	1	0	0	6	10	1	2	0	7	5	0	0	Tomorrow Chelsea (A) 24 Sept West Ham (H) 27 Sept Everton (H) 4 Oct Barnsley (A)				
5	Leicester	6	11	+2	2	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	Today Newcastle (H) 24 Sept Arsenal (A) 27 Sept Liverpool (H) 4 Oct Southampton (A)				
6	West Ham	6	10	+2	2	0	0	0	5	2	1	1	2	5	6	0	0	Today Newcastle (H) 24 Sept Arsenal (A) 27 Sept Liverpool (H) 4 Oct Southampton (A)				
7	Liverpool	6	9	-3	2	0	0	0	3	3	0	2	0	4	2	0	0	Today Southampton (A) 24 Sept Aston Villa (H) 27 Sept West Ham (A) 4 Oct Chelsea (A)				
8	Coventry	6	8	-3	2	2	0	0	7	5	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	Today Sheffield Wed (A) 24 Sept Crystal Palace (H) 28 Sept Blackburn (A) 4 Oct Leeds (H)				
9	Leeds	6	7	-4	2	0	0	1	4	4	0	1	2	1	5	0	0	Today Leicester (H) 24 Sept Southampton (A) 27 Sept Liverpool (H) 4 Oct Chelsea (A)				
10	Tottenham	6	7	-4	2	0	0	1	4	4	0	1	2	1	5	0	0	Today Southampton (A) 24 Sept Tottenham (A) 27 Sept Wimbledon (H) 4 Oct Newcastle (A)				
11	Derby	6	6	-5	1	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Today West Ham (A) 24 Sept Arsenal (A) 27 Sept Liverpool (H) 4 Oct Chelsea (A)				
12	Newcastle	3	6	0	2	0	0	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Today West Ham (A) 24 Sept Everton (H) 27 Sept Chelsea (A) 4 Oct Tottenham (H)				
13	Aston Villa	6	5	-6	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Today Derby (H) 24 Sept Liverpool (A) 27 Sept Sheffield Wed (H) 4 Oct Bolton (A)				
14	Crystal Palace	6	6	-3	0	0	0	3	1	6	2	0	1	4	2	0	0	Today Wimbledon (A) 24 Sept Coventry (A) 27 Sept Bolton (H) 4 Oct Man Utd (A)				
15	Barnsley	6	5	-3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	Today Bolton (H) 24 Sept Coventry (A) 27 Sept Bolton (H) 4 Oct Man Utd (A)				
16	Wimbledon	5	5	-2	0	2	1	2	4	1	0	1	4	4	0	0	0	Today Palace (H) 24 Sept Barnsley (H) 27 Sept Tottenham (A) 4 Oct Blackburn (H)				
17	Bolton	6	5	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	8	0	0	Today Palace (H) 24 Sept Tottenham (A) 27 Sept Bolton (H) 4 Oct Bolton (H)				
18	Everton	5	4	-4	1	0	0	2	3	5	0	1	1	3	3	0	0	Today Barnsley (H) 24 Sept Newcastle (A) 27 Sept Arsenal (H) 4 Oct Sheffield Wed (A)				
19	Sheff Wed	6	4	-5	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	1	5	2	0	0	Today Coventry (H) 24 Sept Derby (H) 27 Sept Aston Villa (A) 4 Oct Chelsea (A)				
20	Southampton	6	3	-6	1	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	3	2	6	0	0	Today Liverpool (H) 24 Sept Leeds (H) 27 Sept Derby (A) 4 Oct West Ham (H)				

FAIR PLAY LEAGUE

Rank	Team	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A
1	S. Dunn	1	13	3	8	0	9	8
2	G. Willard	3	2	15	25	83	2	14
3	M. Riley	3	1	13	18	6	6	9
4	P. Durkin	3	0	18	18	53	6	10
5	J. Winter	3	0	11	16	467	1	4
6	M. Bodinham	3	0	12	12	4	4	4
7	G. Barber	3	0	8	8	6	4	4
8	P. Alcock	2	0	8	8	38	9	11
9	A. Wilde	1	1	14	19	357	0	7
10	P. Jones	1	0	7	7	35	1	3
11	G. Ashby	1	0	10	10	333	0	3
12	U. Harris	1	0	3	3	3	0	3
13	M. Reed	1	0	8	8	267	0	8
14	N. Barry	1	0	8	8	267	0	8
15	D. Gallagher	1	0	7	7	233	0	7
16	K. Burge	1	0	7	7	233	0	7
17	D. Eleray	1	0	9	9	225	0	9
18	G. Pol	1	0	7	7	175	0	7
19	S. Lodge	1	0	7	7	175	0	7

UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE

Rank	Team	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A
1	Everton	1	12	17	340	0	14	19
2	Sheff Wed	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
3	C. Palace	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
4	Newcastle	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
5	Chelsea	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
6	Tottenham	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
7	Leeds	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
8	Arsenal	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
9	Coventry	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
10	Derby	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
11	Wimbledon	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
12	Bolton	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
13	Southampton	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
14	West Ham	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
15	Liverpool	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
16	Leicester	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
17	Blackburn	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
18	Man Utd	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
19	A. Villa	1	14	19	317	0	14	19
20	Barnsley	1	14	19	317	0	14	19

LEADING SCORERS

Rank	Player	Team	Goals	Assists
1	Sutton (Barnsley)	Barnsley	7	1
2	Gallagher (Barnsley)	Barnsley	6	1
3	Wright (Arsenal)	Arsenal	6	0
4	Asprilla (Newcastle)	Newcastle	2	0
5	Bergkamp (Arsenal)	Arsenal	5	0
6	Carbone (Sheff Wed)	Sheff Wed	4	0
7	Wallace (Leeds)	Leeds	4	0
8	Dahlin (Chelsea)	Chelsea	4	0
9	Blake (Bolton)	Bolton	2	0
10	Blake (Bolton)	Bolton	2	0
11	Dublin (Coventry)	Coventry	3	0
12	Ferdinand (Tottenham)	Tottenham	3	0
13	Petrascu (Sheff Wed)	Sheff Wed	3	0
14	Davies (Sheff Wed)	Sheff Wed	2	1

Southampton v Liverpool

Davies 3
Leading scorer
Last season: 0-1
Owen 3

Matthew Le Tissier may play for Southampton after making a mid-week comeback. Le Tissier, recovering from a broken elbow, scored a penalty in a reserve match against Millwall on Wednesday and will most likely start on the bench. Mickey Evans and teenager Kevin Davies, who both scored in Southampton's midweek 3-1 Coca-Cola Cup win over Brentford, are likely to start up front for the Saints, although Norwegian Egil Ostenstad will have an injection on his injured ankle and then decide if he can play through the pain.

Robbie Fowler will almost certainly make his first Liverpool appearance of the season. The England striker will probably start the game on the bench, with Michael Owen, who scored in Liverpool's 2-2 Uefa Cup draw against Celtic on Tuesday, continuing up front alongside Karlheinz Riedle. Full-back Rob Jones is out with a knee problem, which should open the door for Jason McAteer's comeback. Steve Hartness, ruled out in Glasgow because of a groin strain, is doubtful.

Tottenham v Blackburn

Ferdinand 3
Leading scorer
Last season: 2-1
Sutton 8

Major weekend fixtures and pools check

Today
3.0 unless stated

FA Cup Premier-ship

- 1 Aston Villa v Derby
- 2 Bolton v Man Utd
- 3 Everton v Barnsley
- 4 Leeds v Leicester
- 5 Sheffield Wed v Coventry
- 6 Southampton v Liverpool
- 7 Tottenham v Blackburn
- 8 West Ham v Newcastle
- 9 Wimbledon v C Palace

Nationwide Football League First Division

- 10 Crewe v QPR
- 11 Ipswich v Stoke
- 12 Man City v Norwich
- 13 Middlesbrough v Birmingham
- 14 North Forest v Portsmouth
- 15 Oxford Utd v Sheff Utd
- 16 Port Vale v Bury
- 17 Stockport v Huddersfield
- 18 Sunderland v Wolves
- 19 Tranmere v Reading
- 20 WBA v Swindon

Second Division

- 21 Blackpool v Oldham
- 22 Bristol City v Bournemouth
- 23 Burnley v Preston
- 24 Carlisle v Plymouth
- 25 Chesterfield v Bristol Rvs
- 26 Gillingham v Walsley
- 27 Grimsby v Millwall
- 28 Luton v Wrexham
- 29 Northampton v Wigan
- 30 Southend v Fulham
- 31 Walsall v York

Third Division

- 32 Barnet v Southport
- 33 Doncaster v Cambridge
- 34 Exeter v Rotherham
- 35 Lincoln v Cardiff
- 36 Mansfield v Chester
- 37 Peterborough v L Orient
- 38 Rochdale v Hull
- 39 Scarborough v Macclesfield
- 40 Darlington v Hartlepool
- 41 Shrewsbury v Notts Co
- 42 Swansea v Colchester
- 43 Torquay v Brighton

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

- 40 Celtic v Aberdeen
- 41 Dundee v Kilmarnock
- 42 Hearts v Dundee Utd
- 43 Motherwell v Inverness
- 44 St Johnstone v Rangers

* Playing tomorrow (Pools panel will indicate)

First Division

- 45 Ayr v Hibernian
- 46 Dundee v Hearts
- 47 Falkirk v St Mirren
- 48 Partick v Morton
- 49 Stirling v Arbroath

Second Division

- 50 Clyde v Brechin
- 51 Clydebank v St Johnstone
- 52 East Fife v Livingston
- 53 Forth v Stirling
- 54 Queen of the South v Inverness CT

Third Division

- 55 Albion v Airdrie
- 56 Arbroath v Dundee
- 57 Brechin v Montrose
- 58 Dundee v Cowdenbeath
- 59 Ross County v Berwick

Tomorrow

4.0 unless stated

FA Cup Premier-ship

- Chelsea v Arsenal

Nationwide Football League First Division

- Charlton v Bradford City (10)

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

- Dundee v Kilmarnock (20)



Gary Mabbutt, at Tottenham's training ground yesterday, benefits from an enviable characteristic. 'I seem to have the ability to work better when the odds are stacked against me'

Photograph: Peter Jay

Mabbutt resumes pursuit of final ambition

Gary Mabbutt has faced some serious battles in his 16 years at Tottenham. The centre-back, diagnosed as diabetic at 18, has just returned to Spurs' first team after a year out recovering from a broken leg. Four years ago, he was sidelined by a fractured cheekbone and eye socket. But, as Ian Stafford discovered, at 36 he is still eager to fulfil his lasting ambition, to win a championship medal.

Spurs Lodge, early on Friday morning. The first Tottenham player to arrive at the club's training ground is their captain for the past 10 seasons, Gary Mabbutt, eager to make up for lost time after losing the whole of last season through injury.

Nobody gave Mabbutt, at the age of 36, much chance of regaining his first team place, against tough competition in the centre-back depart-

ment, but writing the man off has proved before to be a mistake.

He fully expects to be leading his team out this afternoon at White Hart Lane against high-flying Blackburn, ironically the team against whom he sustained his broken tibia and fibula after just 18 minutes of the first game of last season.

"I can't deny the last year's been hard for me," Mabbutt admitted. "I hoped to be back playing after Christmas but complications arose and I was only really able to look ahead after my third and last operation in March. I spent the whole summer training to get back my fitness and, when I ran out as a substitute against Aston Villa earlier this month, in my first game back for over a year, it was a very big moment for me."

Others, after a career that has seen him win England caps, a UEFA Cup-winner's medal and lift the FA Cup in 1991, might have called it a day, especially as all this has been achieved despite the daily battle of being a diabetic. But not Mabbutt. Despite this being his worst injury by far, in a career that has been dominated by 16 years at Spurs, he never had any

doubts that he would, once again, be wearing the famous white shirt.

"I always knew I'd be back," he said. "When I was first diagnosed with diabetes, when I was 18 and playing for Bristol Rovers, people had serious doubts about whether I had a future in football. Then, after the facial injury in 1993, when my cheekbone and eye socket were both broken in several places, some thought I was finished."

"I don't quite know why it is, but I've always been able to bounce back. I seem to have the ability to work better when the odds are stacked against me, although maybe the fact that I've managed to build a career in football with diabetes has meant that I'm prepared to meet the challenges of injury."

Whatever the reason, Mabbutt is well and truly back, and when you bear in mind that Spurs boast the likes of Sol Campbell, John Scales, Ramon Vega and Colin Calderwood all playing as centre-backs, room for the captain was by no means a foregone conclusion.

Yet he has returned to a familiar tune. Despite playing for one of the most prestigious clubs in England, if

not in Europe, Mabbutt has never won a league championship medal, and although this season is still in its childhood days, Spurs have begun in the same, erratic fashion that has dogged them for so many years, and when Spurs are bad, like at Leicester last Saturday, then they can be horrid.

"It's been my biggest disappointment so far," Mabbutt conceded. "Do you know, the last time Spurs won the league was in 1961, the year I was born. Since I've played for them, we've had some brilliant players like Hoddle, Waddle, Gascoigne and Lincker, but we've never really seriously challenged for the title. For a club like us, that's very poor."

Does he know why this is so? "We've never been consistent," Mabbutt replied, matter-of-factly. "You have to be organised, disciplined and consistent to stand a chance of winning the title. Certainly, when Ossie Ardiles was the manager, he went all out for total football, which meant trying to score as many goals as possible. We hardly did any defensive work in training. It may sound great to try and win every game 4-3,

but not if you're a defender, and you don't win the league that way."

Yet results have not significantly improved since Gerry Francis has been in charge, either, despite the former QPR manager's impressive track record. "No, although I believe that he has laid the foundation for consistency," the club captain said.

"It's easy to go on about injuries, but I've never known so many problems as we've had in the past couple of years. Contrary to belief, there's no sinister reason for this, like over-training. Nearly all our injuries have been sustained during matches. Even against Carlisle the other night [a Coca-Cola Cup tie that Spurs won 3-2] we were missing Iversen, Ferdinand and Armstrong, our three strikers. It's very difficult to get any kind of continuity to win a trophy under those conditions."

"It is my honest belief that, with everyone fit, we are capable of at least challenging for the league. Look at the battle in the central defence! It's like that now for every position, and that can only be good."

Still, time is running out for Mabbutt, something he is acutely aware

of. If Spurs are going to help him achieve his remaining, and biggest ambition in football, then they had better get a move on.

"The body clock's ticking away all right," he admits. "And we haven't quite gelled yet, not settled into the right system. We've got to start, pulling in the same way, because we can't spend much longer this season trying to get it right."

Will he retire as a frustrated and bitter player if the league title eludes him? "Not bitter, no," he said. "But I'm sure it will nag away at me. I've got to remember I've lifted the FA Cup, which is every boy's dream, but I'd like, at the very least, to play a part in mounting a serious challenge for the title, even if we don't end up winning it."

And so, until the Mabbutt body clock alarm rings, he will persevere, injecting himself each day to keep his diabetes at bay, meeting any injury challenge, it seems, head on, and keeping younger and high profile players out of the first team.

As far as Gary Mabbutt is concerned, there is still some unfinished business to complete.

Unravelling the history and mystery of the motto

There's no doubt that Barcelona are, as their club motto maintains, "More than a Club"; "institution" would, in fact, be a more apt description. However, the 14-times Spanish champions were obviously not quite enough of a club to be able to overcome Newcastle United on Wednesday night, a club who just five years ago were staring the old English Third Division in the face.

Kuith Gillespie may have been the architect, Faustino Asprilla the executioner, but it was Newcastle's defence which held the key to victory. A back four which "used" to be renowned for being as leaky as a chocolate teapot stood firm in the closing minutes against incessant Catalan pressure. But then you'd expect that of a club whose motto - *Fortiter Defendit Triumphant* - insists that a Strong Defence Triumphs: a fact that Kenny Dalglish has obviously taken on board to a far greater degree than his predecessor.

Club mottos, like Kevin Keegan's attitude to defending, are something of a mystery. There appears to be no rhyme or reason why certain clubs display stirring (or not so stirring) Latin or English maxims on their club crests, while others are motto-less. I suspect the

explanation is rather more worthy than the one put forward by Reading's historian, David Downes, that: "It's down to someone at a club showing the initiative to pump for a motto and implement it."

He's been trying for years to get Reading to adopt the somewhat unoriginal motto, "Up the Royals", but at least that is the preferable to the club paying lip service to a sponsor on their crest. Thankfully, there's currently only one such culprit. Compare the awful inscription on Grimsby's Club crest (Europe's Food Town) to the evocative *Arte E Labore* (Skill and Toil) promoted by Blackburn who, under Roy Hodgson, seem to have finally added *Arte* to the *Labore* which won them the premier-ship in 1994-95, or to Bury's rousing *Vincit Omnia Industria* (Hard Work Overcomes Everything); well, everything in last season's Second Division that is. I know which motto I find more inspiring and Europe's Food Town it certainly isn't.

Glasgow could never be described as Europe's food town, so it's not surprising to find that Rangers' motto is the more noble, *Aye Ready* (Always Ready), to which the cynics might add... to go out of Eu-



OLIVIA BLAIR
ON THE
OFFICIAL (AND
UNOFFICIAL)
CLUB
MAXIMS

rope. But if we're picking holes in club mottos, then Spurs has to take the biscuit. Whoever saddled the North London club with the dictum *Audere E Facere* (To Dare is to Succeed) obviously hadn't reckoned on the Spurs of the 1990s, who haven't dared to do anything of note since Gazza dared to chip David Seaman at Wimbledon in 1991. Any Spurs fan would concede that "Things can only get better" might be a more appropriate maxim.

But then fans are seldom canvassed on issues such as mottos, as Sunderland fans know only too well. They were

enraged by the club's choice of new crest and motto, claiming that the crest is too similar to Newcastle's and that the motto - *Connectio Excelletiae* (In Search of Excellence) - was simply plucked, without thought, from the pages of a Latin dictionary. After rumours suggesting it was borrowed from a local Gateshead bus company proved to be unfounded, a local paper acted as a forum for fans' personal preferences, which range from the angry (Let's Shaft the Fans) to the more pragmatic (In Search of Promotion).

Being realistic, it's doubtful that a motto has any bearing whatsoever on a club's performance these days. Okay, so Chesterfield may continually "aspire" to greater heights - witness their performance in reaching the semi-finals of the FA Cup last season - while Kilmarnock could do worse than take heart from their motto *Confidemus* (Let us have Confidence) when they try to overcome the 3-1 first leg deficit against Nice in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

But try telling Burnley, currently propping up the Second Division that "work is the reason and the reward"; or that it's all about "progress" to Blackpool, who haven't escaped the

clutches of the Second Division for five years. There was certainly no sign of Bruce Rioch and Arsenal's board of directors paying any heed to the Highbury motto *Victoria Concordia Crescit* (Victory comes through Agreement) when they came to blows, nor is there any evidence to suggest that anyone at Everton has thought to remind Howard Kendall that *Nil Satis Nisi Optimum* (Only the Best is Good Enough) at Goodison. If they had, the Everton manager would surely have given up his pursuit of Fabrizio Ravanelli and offloaded the beleaguered Nick Barmby.

Finally, if anyone can throw light on Stockport's unique motto, which describes them as "The Friendly Football Club", don't expect it to be ex-managers Dave Jones and Danny Bergara. The former was recently snubbed by the club he led to promotion and Coca Cola Cup renown last season when they refused to stock his book in the club shop, while Stockport's parting gift to Bergara, who had taken them to two play-off finals and two Autoglass Trophy finals, was a punch on the head from chairman Brendan Ellwood. No prizes for guessing the motto of that story.

Shearer has cast removed

After the impressive display by Chelsea's Italian players on Thursday night, England's World Cup hopes were given a boost yesterday when Alan Shearer had the plaster-cast and pin removed from his right leg.

"It's a relief to have the pot taken off. The specialist informed me that everything is going according to plan," said the Newcastle striker, who injured his ankle at Everton in the pre-season Umbro Tournament. "Now I'm looking forward to the next part of my recovery programme."

As part of their build-up to the finals next summer, England have been invited to play a friendly against South Africa in Johannesburg in May. The

South African Football Association has asked England to play in an annual match honouring President Nelson Mandela.

An FA spokesman said the invitation was being considered, but England would not take on any more commitments until they knew if they had qualified for the finals.

The League Managers' Association has asked for referees' watches to be linked to stadium clocks to diffuse potential disputes over the length of matches. The LMA wants them to be connected to electronic clocks around grounds so that players, officials and fans all know exactly how long is remaining.

The time problem reared its

head again last month when Arsenal players surrounded referee Graham Barber after he had played six minutes overtime in the 3-3 draw with Leicester.

Several managers have contacted the LMA to see what can be done to eliminate such situations and it will be discussed at a technical liaison panel with representatives of the FA, the Premier and Football Leagues and the LMA on 1 October.

Ajax and Feyenoord are to ban each other's fans from their stadiums. In March, a fight between hundreds of spectators left an Ajax fan dead. Two Feyenoord fans were convicted of murder and sentenced to four years in prison.

- Catherine Riley

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Rieper ready to make Celtic debut

Dutch winger Regi Blinker is ruled out of the Celtic side for the match against Aberdeen after dislocating his shoulder in the UEFA Cup draw with Liverpool in midweek, but Danish defender Marc Rieper is set to make his home debut after his £1.5m move from West Ham.

Second-placed Hearts are again looking to Jim Hamilton in attack after his double against St Johnstone last week. Defender Dave McPherson is back in training, but this match has

probably come too soon for him. Struggling Dundee United may give a debut to Swedish defender Magnus Skoldmark if they can get international clearance.

Greig Denham is ruled out of the Motherwell side by suspension following his sending-off in the 3-2 defeat by Celtic last week and Steve Craig could come into the defence as they chase their first home League victory of the season. Leaders Hibs could be without John Hughes, Lee Power and

Paul Tosh, although striker Kevin Harper is set to return to the side.

St Johnstone are struggling to raise a side because of injuries. Central defender Jim Weir and midfielder Leigh Jenkinson are, among eight players who could be sidelined for the showdown with the champions, Rangers, who will be without Jonas Thern. However, Alex Cleland and Stale Stensaaas are expected to return, after missing the 2-1 UEFA Cup defeat in Strasbourg.

PREMIER LEAGUE INQUIRY

Anatomy of a deal: Paul Gascoigne's move to Lazio

The Premier League's report offers a remarkable insight into the running of Tottenham in the summer of 1991 as the club attempted to sell Paul Gascoigne to Lazio.

The club needed to sell because of financial difficulties and a price of £6.7m was provisionally agreed. The deal was placed in jeopardy because of Gascoigne's serious injury in the 1991 FA Cup final, after which the whole deal became a matter of negotiation between Spurs and Lazio.

On 20 June Spurs received a fax from Lazio's solicitors agreeing to pay £5.5m, but for some reason this was not seen by Terry Venables or Alan Sugar who was on the point of taking over at Spurs at exactly the same time. As Spurs tried to revive the deal Venables involved Gino Santin, an Italian restaurateur, with whom he had had previous dealings. Meetings between the two clubs did not conclude successfully as Lazio were prepared to pay only £4.8m, which Venables rejected as not enough.

There was then a period of some confusion, with Santin and Sugar separately negotiating with Lazio while Venables was on holiday in Bermuda. During this time Santin took a call on his portable phone while at Wimbledon. Santin told the inquiry: "I got this guy from Lazio calling me back and telling me, laughing in my face and telling me, 'We already clinched the deal.' He said: 'We just clinched the deal with Mr Sugar for much less than what you wanted,' and laughing in my face. I was made."

Venables then suggested to Sugar that he "butt out" and the club wrote to Lazio informing them that Santin was representing them. On 19 July Santin spoke to Lazio, and on the basis of that conversation a provisional deal was done. After setting out the terms of that deal the report continues:

1.23 According to Mr Santin, before the Wimbledon telephone call he had been negotiating with Lazio for a price of £5.2m. He told us that he discovered that the deal proposed by Mr Sugar had not gone through, not from Tottenham but from his contacts in Rome. It was after this that he procured the authorisations to act on Tottenham's behalf. He told us that when he had received his authorisation: "I phoned the guy at Lazio and I started laughing in his face because I said to him there is no deal, there is no more deal. Now you talk to me, and we start talking about the £5.5m, the guy goes out."



Paul Gascoigne (left), the England footballer who was loved at White Hart Lane, and the manager who sold him from Tottenham to Lazio in 1991, Terry Venables



Santin's role from being a translator turning up at one meeting as a favour to that of a negotiator expecting to be paid a substantial fee for achieving a contract. Similarly, although Mr Venables appreciated that Mr Santin's own role merited some payment he was horrified at the level of payment which Mr Santin now demanded.

1.28 Eventually the Tottenham board considered the position at their meeting on 12 September 1991. At that meeting it was reported that Mr [Dennis] Roach, who had been the original agent engaged to market Paul Gascoigne, had agreed to accept £27,500 in full and final settlement of his claim. The minutes went on to record as follows:

"There was a general discussion concerning fees payable to Mr Santin in connection with the Gascoigne disposal. Mr Venables was given authority by the Board to negotiate further with Mr Santin. It is hoped that his fee can be limited to approximately £150,000."

1.29 Mr Venables did negotiate with Mr Santin. Eventually they agreed a fee of £200,000. On 30 July, 1992 the minutes of Tottenham Board meeting contained the following item:

"Gascoigne/Lazio the anticipated fee to the agent in connection with the transfer of Gascoigne to Lazio is currently £200,000 plus VAT. The accounts should be amended to reflect this."

1.30 Following receipt of an invoice from Anglo European Market Research and Consulting Company, the fee of £200,000 was paid by cheque dated 7 September 1992 drawn on the account of Tottenham Hotspur Football and Athletic Co Ltd and signed, with appropriate Board approval, by Mr Sugar and Mr Sandy. The cheque was delivered to Mr Santin by a courier under cover of a compliments slip from Mr Sandy, the Tottenham finance director.

The inquiry concluded that Santin's involvement was a breach of FA rules, but that "given the length of time that has passed, the prevalence of breaches of this Rule and the subsequent rules changes" it proposes that the Premier League should not make a formal report on the matter to the FA. It also says that there had been "some veiled suggestions that some part of this fee was paid back by Mr Santin to Mr Venables", but that it was satisfied that this was not so.

ing about the £5.5m, the guy goes out."

1.24 It was a long and tortuous road from that point to the point at which Gascoigne's transfer was finally completed. There were many negotiating difficulties, relating amongst other things to the question of Gascoigne's fitness and to the friendly matches between the clubs. Matters were not made any easier when Gascoigne sustained a further non-footballing injury. However, nobody disputes that Mr Santin was responsible for the transaction which eventually took place between Lazio and

Tottenham. What is far from clear, though, is whether if Tottenham had handled matters differently they would have been able to obtain the same deal without the intervention of Mr Santin.

1.25 The transfer figure of £5.5m was a figure which Lazio's solicitors had indicated to Tottenham's solicitors. Lazio were prepared to pay in their letter dated 20 June, 1991. The mystery of why this figure appears not to have been known either to Mr Venables or to Mr Sugar remains unresolved. The most likely explanation is a breakdown in communication.

At what point and why the breakdown in communication occurred is not plain but in the turmoil of the takeover it would not have been difficult for the letter to be overlooked. Certainly the relevant letter was later to be found on Tottenham's files and with the benefit of hindsight it is possible to suggest ways in which virtually everyone involved on the Tottenham side could have acted differently. The reason for Lazio's subsequent retreat to a figure of £4.825m has not become clear but may be due to alterations in the other terms of their offer, particularly those re-

lating to fitness and performance. Without Mr Santin it is at least very possible that the transaction would have proceeded at that figure. Mr Santin must therefore have the credit for obtaining the additional sum for Tottenham, even though the task of getting that sum may well have been considerably easier than might at first sight appear.

1.26 Further, two other elements in the transaction which Mr Santin negotiated had already been the subject of discussion and apparent approval at an earlier stage. They were the two friendly games, and the

payment to Tottenham of the interest on the transfer fee pending Paul Gascoigne becoming fit to play football again. The further benefit which Tottenham eventually obtained from a deal with Sky television to screen the two games for a fee of £200,000, was negotiated between Mr Sugar and Mr Chisholm. Mr Santin played no part in the negotiation of this contract although he was present and assisted on the day of the match when problems arose about whether Sky would be permitted to transmit the game played in Rome.

1.27 After Mr Santin had reached his agreement with Lazio for the sale of Gascoigne at £5.5m and the other benefits for Tottenham which included all gate receipts from the home game and part of the receipts from the game in Rome, he wanted to be paid. There was a heated three-way telephone conversation between Mr Santin, Mr Venables, and Mr Sugar in which Mr Santin put forward his case for payment. Mr Sugar was outraged. He had been told originally by Mr Venables that Mr Santin would do it "for a drink". He had not appreciated the change in Mr

Protracted saga of the Haland transfer

The transfer of Alf-Inge Haland from the Norwegian club Bryne to Nottingham Forest was a protracted affair. It began during the Brian Clough era but was not concluded until Frank Clarke had taken over as manager. The deal involved the Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, who was a key figure in the George Graham affair. The deal involved Fenton receiving a payment of £45,000 after he left the club. This is how the report describes that payment:

8.1 Although Mr Fenton told us that Mr Hauge contacted him at least once or twice a week whilst he was at Forest, after Mr Fenton left the club he told us that he did not speak to Mr Hauge until one evening in March 1994 when Mr Hauge contacted him on the telephone. Mr Fenton told us that the call came out of the blue. Mr Hauge told Mr Fenton that he would like to meet, and Mr Fenton told us that he drove down from Nottingham to meet Mr Hauge at the "Lancaster Gate Hotel" in London (a reference which we take to be to the Royal Lancaster Hotel, a hotel often used by Mr Hauge, although we do not consider the issue to be material to this report). Mr Hauge was in England to watch Arsenal FC play the home leg of a European game. Although Mr Fenton was not clear about the date, he was able to indicate in subsequent correspondence that this may have been the match between Arsenal FC and Torino, which took place on 15 March 1994.

8.2 Mr Fenton told us that at the time of the telephone call, Mr Hauge did not say why he wished to see him. He merely told Mr Fenton that it would "be to your advantage". Mr Fenton told the inquiry that at the meeting itself Mr Hauge said he wished to pay Mr Fenton the sum of £45,000. He told us that Mr Hauge indicated that the payment was as commission for help that Mr Fenton had given to him over the previous four to five years. Mr Fenton told us that the payment "came out of the blue". In a later statement, Mr Fenton has acknowledged that Mr Hauge informed him that the £45,000 was payment, in part, as "commission" for the Haland transfer.

8.3 Mr Fenton told us that, at the meeting in March 1994, Mr Hauge wrote down for him the details of whom Mr Fenton should contact to obtain payment of the £45,000. Mr Hauge gave Mr Fenton the details of InterClub Ltd. Mr Fenton was told to speak to "Lisa" a reference to Ms Lisa Davey, then an employee of a company called Saffery Champness Management International Limited, who are based in Guernsey and at that time acted on behalf of [Hauge's] InterClub Ltd. In his statement to the police, Mr Fenton said Ms Davey was also present at the meeting.

8.4 The inquiry has seen a letter dated 22 March 1994 on the headed paper of Proman AS from Mr Hauge to Ms Lisa Davey of Saffery Champness. The letter is headed "Re: Transfer of Alf Inge Haland: Payment of other com-

mission. Our Conversation". The document authorises Ms Davey to pay £45,000 to Mr Fenton as "other commission". The letter asks Ms Davey to make arrangements for the payment to Mr Fenton, stating: "Please also find the best practical way for him to receive the funds and send him a letter with your proposal." We have also seen handwritten notes taken by Mr Hauge which would suggest that £90,000 was to be disbursed to "others" in relation to the Haland transfer. We have seen no evidence to suggest whether the other £45,000 was in fact paid to anyone or to identify the intended recipient.

8.5 Mr Fenton told us that after his meeting with Mr Hauge he got in touch with Ms Davey, and asked her to confirm the sum to him, which she did in writing. Subsequently, Mr Fenton told us that he telephoned Ms Davey and instructed her to account to him for £5,000 which she did by cheque. Mr Fenton then asked for £10,000 to be transferred from the InterClub account, and the remaining £30,000 to be transferred into a French bank based in St Tropez. He also informed us that subsequently he spent some of the money on a holiday, and retained the rest. On another occasion, Mr Fenton has said that he received the final £10,000 in two payments of £5,000 each.

8.6 Mr Fenton told us that since the meeting at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in March 1994, he spoke to Mr Hauge only once more on the telephone, and had



Haland: Centre of attention concerning transfer irregularities

also discussed with him Mr Hauge's problems with the Norwegian authorities.

8.7 Although the inquiry has requested that Mr Fenton make available to us copies of the correspondence by which Saffery

Champness accounted to him for monies and also copies of relevant banking and other records relating to the same payments, Mr Fenton declined to do so on the basis that the relevant documents were with the Inland Revenue, who were conducting their own enquiry.

8.8 Mr Fenton told the inquiry that there was never any suggestion that any part of this money ought to be paid on to Mr Clough or anyone else at Nottingham Forest. The inquiry has seen no evidence to indicate that any payment was made

to Mr Clough by Mr Hauge either in connection with the transfer of Mr Haland or otherwise.

9. MR CLOUGH'S REACTION

9.1 It was some time after Mr Fenton received his payment from Mr Hauge in March 1994, that the *Sunday Express* printed an article suggesting that monies deriving from the Haland transfer had found their way back to Mr Clough. Mr Clough appears to have read the article since according to Mr [Archie] Gemmill [one of the Forest back-room staff], shortly after the article appeared Mr Clough spoke to Mr Gemmill on that subject. Later, we heard that Mr Gemmill relayed the content of this conversation to Mr [Allan] Clarke [another member of the Forest back-room staff] on the telephone. Mr Clarke told the inquiry:

"[Gemmill] told me he had seen Brian Clough and that he was very upset reading in the newspaper today about the Haland deal and where money had been passed over. I saw Brian Clough myself possibly a week or fortnight later when he himself told me that he had rang the club and asked to speak to Frank Clarke who was not available so he spoke to Hill and he asked him what it was about. Hill had said that he would have to go across some time and explain it to him and [Clough] had told [Hill] he would be across here in half an hour...Hill had told [Clough] that it was something that Fenton had done totally on his own, and the boss told Hill...you

go back to Forest, and you can tell the chairman and the manager that if I am implicated in any of this whatsoever I will [put you] all in jail...subsequent to that I understand that Fenton did go over to see Clough to apologise to him...No-one was quite certain about who had the actual money that Fenton had got. The inference seemed to be that he had it all himself."

9.2 Mr Hill corroborated this account by Mr Clarke. He told the inquiry:

"I got called up to Brian Clough's house when it came out in the paper accusing Brian of having the money and he sent for me and he said can you explain what this is all about and I had to explain to him and he should have turned up at 3 o'clock but he did not. He did not have any part in the deal, which he didn't."

9.3 When the inquiry interviewed Mr White on 21 February 1995, the payment to Mr Fenton apparently came as a surprise to him even though by that time there had already been newspaper speculation on the issue and others at the club had already been in contact with Mr Clough about this. Mr O'Kane confirmed to the inquiry that he knew nothing of a payment to Mr Fenton until it had appeared in the media. He expressed his surprise. For his part, Mr Fenton told the inquiry that the media revelations regarding Mr Hauge's payment to him came as a "complete surprise".

moved

Premier League inquiry reveals football's dark side

Glenn Moore reports

Football is not corrupt, but it has a shady underbelly in which murky service stations, cardboard boxes full of cash and North Sea trawlers each play a part.

That is the leading conclusion from the long-awaited Premier League's "bung" inquiry, which finally reported yesterday, three years and 10 months after being set up.

The report, which interviewed 66 witnesses in person and 24 by telephone, implicates a number of people as involved in either "improper behaviour" or infringement of Football Association regulations. They include Terry Venables and Brian Clough, a number of other club officials and several agents.

No one has been charged as the Premier League do not have that authority. The FA does and they pledged an "urgent and serious investigation" with a decision on charges to be "taken shortly".

In view of the weight of evidence - the report runs to more than 300 pages, 145 of them on the transfer of Nottingham Forest to Tottenham - it would be a grave neglect of duty if no one follows George Graham into the dock.

The most serious allegations centre on Ronnie Fenton, the former Nottingham Forest assistant manager. The inquiry concludes that he received £50,000 cash from the Sberingham deal, with the consent and knowledge of Venables, his former assistant Ted Buxton, and Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar. They suggest some of

this money was passed on to Forest employees, possibly including Clough, and that a substantial sum was used by Fenton to pay for his daughter's wedding.

This money is said to have been exchanged at a service station on the M1 at a meeting between Sberingham, Fenton and Frank McLintock, who was acting as an agent for Sberingham and Tottenham. All three are said to have deliberately misled the inquiry.

In another case, involving the signing of two players from non-League Leicester United, the report concludes: "There is direct evidence of a fraudulent arrangement by which Mr Clough and/or Mr Fenton acquired a substantial sum of money from the two transfers."

Steve Burtenshaw, George Graham's former assistant at Arsenal, is also said to have "knowingly received payments... derived directly from transfer fees paid by Arsenal to Brondby in connection with the transfer of John Jensen." That was one of the transfer deals which led to Graham's sacking at Arsenal and a one-year ban from the FA. Burtenshaw survived but left Arsenal this summer.

The report states that regulations concerning agents, "created a cult of dishonesty". After outing two cases where Tottenham, then managed by Venables, paid agents by means of "disguised invoices" for transfer brokering, it adds: "We do not believe Tottenham were unique or exceptional" in this behaviour.

Many of these rules have now changed as the game has come to accept agents. More regulation is clearly required,

however. Several agents are listed among those who did not co-operate as the enquiry would have liked and the Spurs fullback Justin Edinburgh is quoted expressing his dissatisfaction at discovering Eric Hall represented both him and Tottenham when he joined them from Southend.

Edinburgh, who paid Hall £5,000 cash for brokering the deal, said: "I felt Eric had let me down, that he had said to me he was working in my best interests, that it seemed that he was always working for the club... I felt he had taken me for a ride." It is clear that several agents have exploited the amateur administration of some clubs, especially since the explosion of overseas signings.

Despite their comment about a "cult of dishonesty" the commission did not believe the game was corrupt. Robert Reid QC, who presented the report with Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the Premier League, said he did not believe players were bought and sold for gain, but "improper payments" were sometimes made in conjunction with transfers arranged "in the interests of the club".

Reid formed the commission with Rick Parry, Leaver's predecessor, now at Liverpool and Steve Coppell, then head of the League Managers' Association, now managing Crystal Palace. Reid said "we did not speak to everybody we would have liked to. Some of those we did requested legal representation. Others only co-operated in part." Among those was Clough who, said Reid, had refused to appear but did "give me valuable information on the telephone, possibly involuntarily".



Peter Leaver (left) and Robert Reid QC at yesterday's announcement by the Premier League

Photograph: Robert Hallam

He did not, however, support Kate Hoey MP's call for a Statutory Inquiry. "It would be nice to be able to pull people's fingernails out until they answered but it is not practi-

cal. They had statutory powers in Norway and did not get much further," he said. Hoey, incidentally, was not prepared to repeat her allegations about Venables, made under the

cloak of parliamentary privilege, to the commission. "Nothing surprises me about politicians," Reid said. Reid added: "I'm sure there are cases we have not un-

covered. It would be astounding if there were not. There are also some loose ends. Improper dealings usually involve cash and we have had trouble tracing money."

The commission uncovered one case where a transfer did not go through because a "bung" was not paid but there was no evidence of match-fixing.

The quiet man who let Clough do the talking

The prominence Ronnie Fenton plays in the Football Association's report into "bungs" could not come as a greater contrast to the unassuming role he has played in the game.

An extrovert would have been hard to detect amid the hallelujahs of headlines Brian Clough created in their spell together at Nottingham Forest, but Fenton was a low-key assistant manager by preference. Old Big Ed would seek the limelight. Fenton preferred the shadows.

He was the same as a player. Born in South Shields in 1940, he passed through Burnley, West Bromwich Albion, Birmingham City and Brentford largely anonymously, appearing in more than 180 League games between 1960

and 1969, until he became part of Jimmy Sirrell's backroom staff at Notts County, succeeding him as manager at Meadow Lane when he was in charge of England.

Now working as a coach in Malta, he admitted to the "bungs" inquiry that he received money from Rune Hauge, the Norwegian agent whose £400,000 "gifts" to George Graham cost the latter his job as Arsenal manager.

"There was nothing dishonest and that's the truth," Fenton told the *Mirror* after revealing he had received £45,000 from Hauge. "The cheque came out of the blue. Rune told me the money was a reward for service over a period of six or seven years when I advised him which

Fenton left Forest when his motor retired in May 1993, working part-time for the FA and then as a scout for Terry Venables when he was in charge of England.

Now working as a coach in Malta, he admitted to the "bungs" inquiry that he received money from Rune Hauge, the Norwegian agent whose £400,000 "gifts" to George Graham cost the latter his job as Arsenal manager.

"There was nothing dishonest and that's the truth," Fenton told the *Mirror* after revealing he had received £45,000 from Hauge. "The cheque came out of the blue. Rune told me the money was a reward for service over a period of six or seven years when I advised him which



Ronnie Fenton: Admitted receiving money from Rune Hauge

Scandinavian players might be good enough for English football.

"He never promised me cash and I never asked for any. There might have been an unspoken agreement that I'd get something, but even so it was a surprise when £45,000 turned up as a totally unsolicited gift."

- Guy Hodgson

Case of £45,000 on an Icelandic trawler

Perhaps the most remarkable story to emerge from the report is the transfer that is alleged to have concluded with the payment of £45,000 brought in a fishing boat by an Icelandic trawler for a rendezvous in Hull.

It concerns the move made by Thorvaldur Orlyggsson from the Icelandic club Akureyrar to Nottingham Forest in December 1989.

The inquiry was told that the deal did not involve agents or intermediaries, and that all Forest's negotiations were conducted by their manager at the time, Brian Clough, and his assistant, Ronnie Fenton (although the inquiry was unable to interview Clough about the matter).

When the deal was first set up in October 1989, the fee proposed was £150,000, but by the time the details were finalised, the figure had increased to

£174,000, a fee paid on 5 December. (The player himself agreed to terms of £500 per week, which would later rise to £700 per week.)

Also on 5 December, Fenton flew to Iceland to, in his words, "finish the deal". The report says Fenton "was unable to explain why the money had been transferred before the deal was finished. He was adamant he had not brought any money back with him: he told us he only brought back two artificial Christmas trees."

Fenton said that it was while he was in Iceland that the asking price was increased, that he telephoned Clough about it, and that Clough had agreed to pay more.

Akureyrar also said that the fee was increased from £150,000 to £174,000 at that time and the club denied that the fee had been agreed before Fenton's arrival in Iceland.

The suggestion that Fenton received £45,000 "in a fishing box off a trawler in Hull" was made by Allan Clarke, a member of the Forest back-room staff.

The mode of payment - on board a trawler - although not the exact amount was supported by two other members of the Nottingham Forest back-room team, Archie Gemmill and Graham Lyas. Lyas told the inquiry: "We heard there was a trawler coming from Iceland, how true it was I don't know. Certainly I think Mr Fenton had to go to Hull to collect some money."

Fenton denies receiving any money for the deal, either in Iceland or England, while Forest say the only money paid was to Akureyrar, and Akureyrar insist no money was paid to any individual concerning the transfer.

The inquiry acknowledges "the clear possibility that 'club gossip' is unreliable", but it also points out a number of causes for concern emerging from the case, among them "the persistence of stories that Mr Fenton collected a substantial cash payment from the transaction."

- Matt Tenn

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3409, Saturday 20 September By Mass

ACROSS

- Feebleness of magistrate without reserves (6)
- Judged, bridge players bristled (8)
- Violent windy storm round North, whirling daily (9)
- Flower appears in verge after a day (5)
- Circular feature of a plant (7)
- English Rolls: name entered for rallies (7)
- Plum jam contains energy (5)
- Practice putting gathers in half of refter (8)
- Cool way is to squeeze N with Queen (8)
- Jag, say, VIP almost turned over (5)
- A man's blue memoir (7)
- Increasingly eccentric? Girl's on the level (7)
- Junket with Eastern food (5)
- Root sign? (9)
- Triumphs, before talkie screens? (8)
- Minister's after very large port (6)

DOWN

- Succeed with Diamond card after odd slip (8)
- Shadow enveloping Queen's Row (7)
- Information? Call officer up, chivalrous type (9)
- Breaks away from one's class? (6,8)
- Former group set up to sing songs of praise? (5)
- Badgers? Creatures typically striped, for starters (7)
- Overthrow most of column flanked by river (6)
- Flower from a bulb recently flourished, without hint of rain (10,4)
- Pushing a little - accepting millions, with debts (9)
- Covered action on outskirts of battle (8)
- Note veom in interruption (7)
- Knocking Moonies is offensive (7)
- Keep mum confined (4,2)
- Character turned up time and time again (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hand-drawn copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4818, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5YL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: J Schutte, Guildford; C Stokely, Cambridge; Mr Boughen, Gravesend; M Rowntree, London SE2; E Christie, Oxford.

Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

CRICKET

Stewart rallies Surrey

Henry Blofeld reports from Canterbury Surrey 124 & 288-3 Kent 220

It was as if the pitch at the St Lawrence Ground had suddenly realised it had to mend its ways for such an important occasion. After a dark-suited visitation from Lord's had pondered over the surface before the start and during lunch, Alec Stewart proceeded to play as fine an innings as anyone has seen all summer, Stuart Law and Ricky Ponting included.

With sensible help from Darren Bicknell, who made his second hundred of the summer, they put Surrey in charge of the match with a third-wicket stand of 219. The nasty bounce, which had caused problems on Thursday, had for some extraordinary reason almost completely disappeared on a day which saw had light claim 35 overs.

The pitch had not behaved well on the first day, but when the ball moves around and bounces as it did then, modern techniques are hard-pressed to cope. Brian Fitch is a most experienced groundsman and it was almost certainly not as under-prepared as it had then seemed. There

after this, although the dark-suited visionaries wished to see more of the match before issuing a statement.

Stewart has not had the best of seasons with the bat, but now he began to play expansively from the start. He had made a single by lunch after Mark Ealham had sent back Mark Butcher with a return catch and Jason Ratcliffe to a superb slip catch by Trevor Ward off successive balls.

After the interval, Stewart treated the bowling with near-disdain. There was a dismissive certainty about many of his strokes which, allied to excellent timing and placing, did little for Kent's Championship hopes. He drove with a classical elegance, those familiar strokes through mid-wicket have over gone more sweetly off his bat and he pulled the short stuff as if he was teaching some rowdy teenagers an overdue lesson.

He went to his hundred with the third of three pulls for four off the first three balls of a new spell from Alan Igglesden. The runs had come from 90 balls and included 19 fours, figures which speak most emphatically.

Bicknell had the luck to be dropped when he was 30 by Graham Cowdrey, who failed to hold a hot one to his left at first slip off Ealham. Otherwise, he also played some fine strokes, reach-

ALFRED DUNHILL LONDON

THE NEW AD 2000 CARBON FIBRE FOUNTAIN PEN (PRICES START FROM £105)

ALFRED DUNHILL WRITING INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT SELECTED BRANCHES OF THE GOLDSMITHS GROUP, ONE OF THE LEADING QUALITY JEWELLERS IN THE COUNTRY WITH OVER 120 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE.

GOLD-SMITHS & WALKER & HALL THE MARK OF A FINE JEWELLER

CALL FREE ON 0800 G-O-L-D-S-M-I-T-H-S (0800 465376) TO FIND YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST.

Beam r

Under the

INSIDE

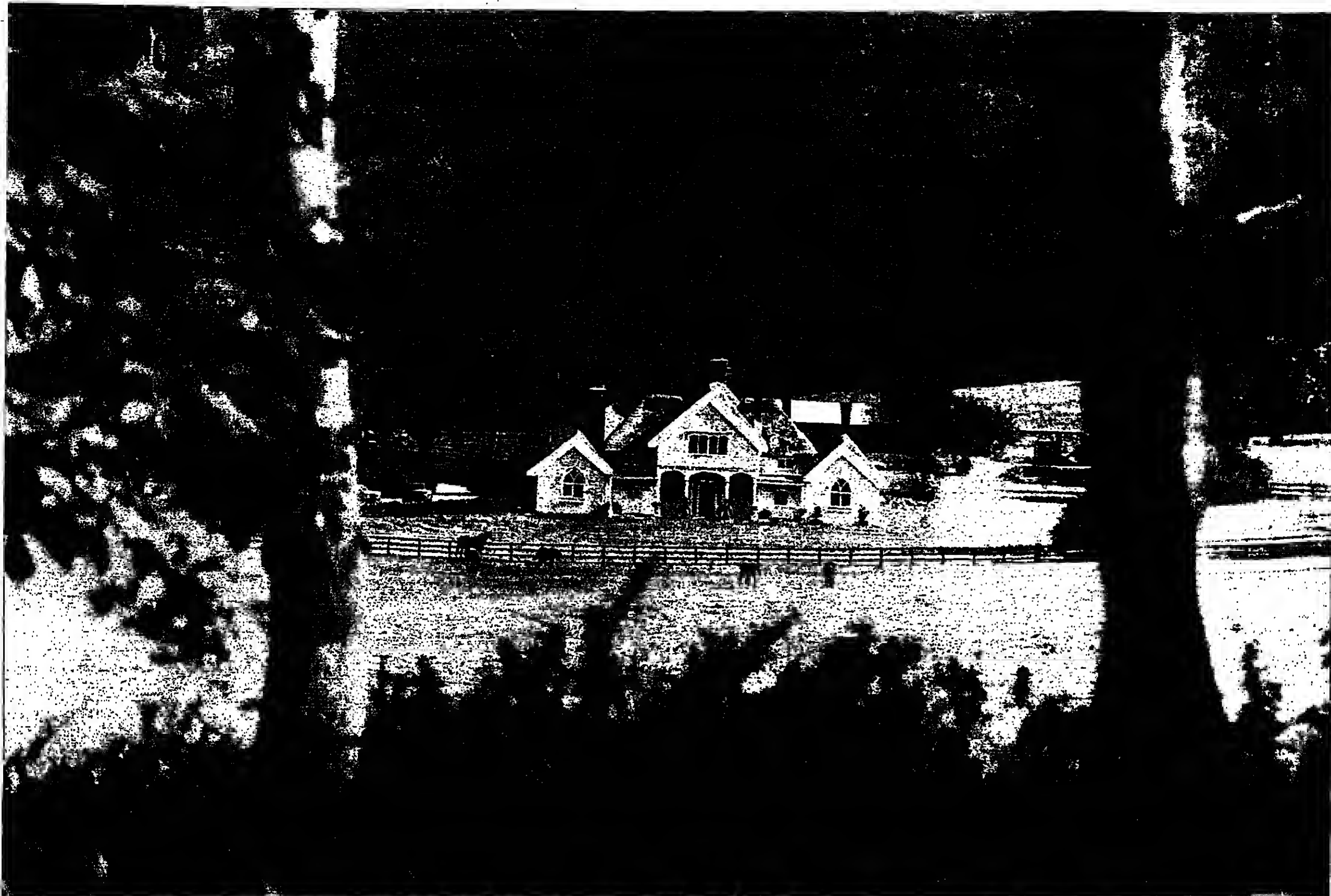
Advising



YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING

Saturday 20 September 1997



Looking for that luxury des res to rent? You can find it at Chinnor in Oxfordshire, where this imposing five-bedroom, five-bathroom 18th century country home is available. The unfurnished mansion, which has undergone extensive improvements, has a heated swimming pool and sits in 1.5 acres of grounds. It is within easy reach of London and could be yours for only £ 5,950 a month. Full story: page 11

Beam me up, Scottie. I'll pay by Trekkie card

As the competition between credit card issuers heats up, some are discovering an untapped market among members of so-called affinity groups. Steve McDowell and Nic Ganti boldly go in search of the ideal card for you.

Karen Giddings enjoys talking to strangers. Which is just as well, because every time she uses her credit card to pay a bill Karen ends up striking up a conversation with the person who accepts it.

Her card is issued on behalf of the Star Trek fan club. It is emblazoned with a scene from the famous TV and big-screen series, forcing her to explain where it came from whenever she hands it over.

More than 12,000 "Trekkies" and science fiction fans use this

card for their weekly shopping, or anything else for that matter, marking them out as one of hundreds of "affinity groups" each with a distinctively designed piece of plastic strictly for them.

Hundreds of thousands of card users are doing nicely with credit cards issued by organisations as diverse as the National Trust and the RSPCA, the Campaign for Real Ale and the National Association of Fish Fryers.

Karen, a marketing executive, is one of them: "I got mine about two years ago. When I was a student, we used to watch every episode by satellite in the house I shared.

"When I heard there was a card I applied for it immediately. I tend to use it a lot of the time when I am travelling or to buy clothes. It does generate a lot of comment. People want to know how I got it and where they can get one.

"Some people are also fans. They seem disappointed that they can't get pictures from different series and different people."

The market for affinity credit cards like this has exploded in the last five years,

with some 2 million users capturing about 7 per cent of the market.

In each case some kind of donation is made to the affinity organisation. In the case of the Bank of Scotland, one of the largest players in the market, this is a contribution of 0.25 per cent of the spend on all cards, plus an "activation fee" of around £7.50.

Bank of Scotland employs TransNational, an American company with its UK arm based in Reading, to seek out suitable affinity groups. Since the late 1980s, when the bank began issuing, it has donated almost £9m to more than 420 causes and affiliates.

Bank of Scotland is rivalled in the market only by US firms Beneficial Bank and MBNA, although Halifax has a number of affinities and Co-op Bank has some big member cards - the Labour Party and Amnesty International among them. Even Midland has a few.

The rewards for many of the groups are often too attractive to miss out on. The RSPCA, which has more than 70,000 in circulation, has raised slightly less than £1m since it was launched in 1993. A medium-

sized charity group, Action Aid, for example, has benefited by around £400,000.

The Star Trek card attracts users who are science fans, as well as genuine "Trekkies". It is marketed through advertisements in specialist magazines and cable TV science fiction channels. TransNational is planning a major TV advertising campaign to promote its benefits, beginning next week.

David Williams-Jones, TransNational's divisional general manager says: "Cosmonauts are polarising in their views and, whether they are doing it for themselves or because they want to do a little bit for others, I don't know. But there are massive numbers of people coming into the market.

"The advantage to these groups is that money comes in on an annual basis, so each charity knows that a certain time of year it will receive a certain sum."

This, perhaps, is why around half of all the affinity cards on the markets back charities. Another 20 per cent are held by groups such as the Trekkies, 15 per cent by alumni organisations like the University of Manchester, 10 per cent by

sporting clubs like Coventry City Football Club and the remainder by a variety of clubs and societies such as Mensa.

Any lawful organisation with a database of more than about 7,500 members can find a deal to issue its own cards, although most issuers would balk at politically or socially sensitive affinity groups.

Professor Steve Worthington, professor of marketing of financial services at Staffordshire University Business School, has made a study of affinity cards.

"There has been tremendous growth in this market. But

[it] is, by and large, for those who missed the boat originally," he says.

Part of these cards' popularity is definitely to do with the shared activities of those who take them out, he adds.

Whether it is just novelty value or a true sense of altruism which has caused this explosion in the market remains something of a mystery.

In general, affinity cards are not even necessarily good value. APRs and fee structures vary as much as the conventional credit card market. Bank of Scotland, for example, offers a standard 20.9 per cent APR

rate on all its cards. That can be bettered by many competitors.

Among them are Save & Prosper, which charges just 12.4 per cent APR on purchases, Saga, which charges 16.9 per cent, and Co-op's Advantage card, which costs 10.9 per cent APR but has no credit limit.

Not that this bothers Karen Giddings: "To be honest, the rate doesn't bother me. I have arranged my finances so that I pay off my credit card bills each month. The important thing is that I get credit every month - with a card I enjoy using."

Star Trek card: 0845 604460.



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/ THE AGE CONCERN PEP

The product: Age Concern's Monthly Income Plus PEP.

The deal: With a minimum £5,000 investment, the PEP is managed for Age Concern by the insurance company Commercial Union. It pays a tax-free monthly income each year of 7.96 per cent. The fund invests mainly in corporate bonds - debt issued by companies in exchange for a fixed rate of interest.

It has delivered an average annual return of 13 per cent over the past five years.

Plus points: CU has cut the upfront charge from 4 per cent of the initial investment to just 2 per cent. If you die in the first five years, CU will pay back a lump sum worth at least the original investment.

Drawbacks and risks: Commercial Union charges a fee of 1.25 per cent a year. With a more typical 1

per cent charge, this equates to £62.50 more over five years.

The verdict: Relatively inexpensive initial charge. Comparatively high return, with few risks.

Marks out of five: Three

-Andrew Verity

Age Concern PEP call 0181 6798000

10 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY

NO DEALING CHARGES.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

INVESTMENT TRUST SHARE PLAN

Fidelity's Investment Trust Share Plan has no dealing charges. All you pay is Government stamp duty. And, of course, our entry and exit charges are zero. It's also flexible to suit your needs. It invests in four trusts covering the UK, continental Europe, Asia (excluding Japan) and Japan. You can choose to invest in one or more of the trusts in our range. And you can switch, for free, whenever you like. Invest with a lump sum of £1,000 or more. Or, save regularly from as little as £30 a month.

0800 41 41 10

Call free 9am-6pm, 7 days. <http://www.fidelity.co.uk>



Fidelity Investments

JOIN THE WORLD'S NO.1

* Up to 5% commission may be deducted from your initial investment if you invest through an independent financial adviser. The purchase/sale price of shares will include the effect of the market spread. The annual management charges for the Fidelity Investment Trusts range from 0.95% to 1% plus VAT. These are paid by the trust and are reflected in the net asset value. Stamp duty (0.5%) is payable on all purchases. Resources and assets are as at 30/09/97 and include securities of FFI only, a U.S. company and affiliate. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of shares and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invested. Issued by Fidelity Investments International which acts as the manager of the Investment Trust Share Plan and of the group of Fidelity Investment Trusts. Fidelity Investments International is regulated by FICAP and the Financial Services Authority. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice based on individual circumstances.

INSIDE 2/MAKEOVER 5/DAVIS SPEAKS 9/GAVIN GREEN 12/FIXSEN
Advising doctors Buffett as the Oracle Mini: what a waste Auction blues

2/PERSONAL FINANCE

NIC CICUTTI

A new look and plenty of new ideas

Welcome to our new-look *Your Money* section. After the excitement of *The Independent's* own relaunch earlier this week, a few more surprises. The most important is that this will henceforth be a stand-alone section covering personal finance, property and motoring.

Why these? Because it is becoming increasingly difficult to separate the three subjects. If you buy a house, the chances are you may want to pay it off with a PEP or an endowment. Choosing a car means bank loans and motor insurance.

The new section aims to discuss all these subjects intelligently, to give you choices that help you to make informed decisions on these issues.

This week, we return after a summer break with the hugely popular Money Makeover series. In it, there are always a few ideas that you can take away to discuss with your adviser. We are also adding more columnists. For example, our expert Robin Amlot will be guiding novice "netters" through the World Wide Web's financial pages.

This summer's wave of building society flotations has created a vast new army of small shareholders. We aim to cater for it with a series, starting shortly, which will explain the A to Z of stock market investment.

Motoring is also being revamped and will become more prominent, and our property section will be given new air to breathe in.

Most importantly, as the title of this section indicates, this is *Your Money*. I am happy to receive letters and suggestions from you. The last time I made this rash promise I was inundated with letters. Sadly, my two-finger typing speed and pressures of work mean I cannot promise to reply to every letter. But they are all read and appreciated.

Not all money matters are discussed in this section. Some, like today's story about unit-linked insurance company products, are in the business pages of *The Independent* because they are news stories.

What is instructive about this story is not just which companies deliver the best and worst products. Equally important is who does not feature in the list.

Last year, I asked why these firms were refusing to provide information to *Money Marketing*, the specialist magazine which compiled the report.

The reasons they generally gave were lack of time and resources, or that they no longer sell the products. As I pointed out then, there was a surprising coincidence between companies that are poor performers and those that cited lack of time as their reason for not taking part in the survey.

This year - surprise, surprise - the rogue's list is almost identical. It still includes Cornhill, who so generously invited me to an insurance industry bash only two days after my critical comments about them. Pearl, which stopped selling unit-linked plans two years ago, refused to take part.

Also on the list of "refuseniks" is Barclays Life, one of whose people swore, hand on heart, that the bank genuinely didn't have enough resources to complete the questionnaire they were sent by *Money Marketing*.

I am going to the same dinner, given by the Association of British Insurers, next week. I wonder what Barclays Life will tell me this time?

MONEY MAKEOVER

Prescription for a young doctor: Start thinking about retirement

Financial planning may seem unnecessary when you have just started out on your career. Making the right decisions early on in life, however, can prevent a lot of worries in the future, as one medical professional discovers.

Name: Deirdre Barton
Age: 25
Occupation: Senior house officer
Financial problem: Deirdre, who recently qualified as a doctor, works on medical rotation in a number of hospitals in the Belfast area. She currently earns £22,000 after two years in the profession and hopes to become a consultant physician in the future.

Currently living in rented accommodation, she and her fiancé, also a doctor, intend to buy a property ahead of their marriage next year. The couple, who are of a similar age and are embarked on a similar career path, would like to retire at about 55.

Deirdre already has an income protection plan in the event of being unable to work through illness. She needs advice on her prospective house purchase, planning for retirement and investing for her medium-term financial future. The adviser: John Cartwright, principal of Cartwright Associates, 11 Bressagh Road, Lisburn, (01846 639228) is Northern Ireland regional chairman of DBS, a network of independent financial advisers. The advice: Dr Barton has sensibly protected her income in the event of illness, with Friends Provident. She should also put in place a realistic amount of life assurance and critical illness cover, which pays out a lump sum should she fall victim to a number of so-called "dread diseases", including heart attack, stroke and cancer.



Deirdre Barton: Getting married soon, she is looking to the future

Photograph: Pacemaker

On her current annual income of £22,000, a sensible level of benefit would be £200,000 critical illness cover with a further £200,000 payable on death.

A policy written so that future benefits would increase in line with inflation, on the birth of any children and on moving house - without medical evidence - would provide Dr Barton with a sound protection base. I would suggest a firm called Pegasus. Cover which pays out the above sum on death or earlier diagnosis of a terminal illness would cost about £9 per month. Critical illness and disability cover for the same amount would cost a further £24.42 a month.

As for the most suitable

way to enter into a home purchase, the key is to consider the pattern of her senior colleagues in the medical profession. Two or three house moves in the first 10 to 15 years are not unusual.

If she and her husband were to move house often, there is a danger that only a small proportion of the mortgage capital would be repaid each time with a repayment mortgage. The uncertain future of Peps, given government plans to launch separate Individual Savings Accounts two years from now, means this may not fit their needs either.

As the couple are members of occupational pension schemes, a pension mortgage is not an option. They are fairly unusual in that, as doctors,

they can make contributions into the NHS pension scheme - without the tax benefits - and set up a personal pension to run alongside it, to give even greater tax advantages. This is quite a drastic step to take.

That leaves us with the lowest endowment. The advantages are that it can be moved to each subsequent mortgage, allowing top-ups along the way. Given the couple's relative security of employment, early surrender is unlikely; the plan would repay the mortgage in the event of death or earlier critical illness. Given that Dr Barton's first house may have a mortgage of £90,000, it may even be sensible to consider going for a larger low-cost endowment at the outset, which

could lead to savings in the future.

A twin-plan option, offering repayment of the loan in the event of either partner's death, would provide greater flexibility. I would suggest a Norwich Union low-cost endowment, which is not the cheapest but has wider cover than other plans in relation to her profession, with premiums of £140 per month for a £90,000 mortgage.

Given that she is planning to get married in the near future and buy a house, perhaps she can wait a little while until she knows what her exact outgoings are likely to be.

With retirement planning in mind, Dr Barton sensibly joined the NHS superannuation scheme. This provides 1/80th of

final salary for each year of service as an annual pension, plus 3/80ths for year of service as tax free cash.

Should Dr Barton retire at 55 she will have only 31 years service, which falls short of the maximum benefits. Furthermore, she will be penalised on a sliding scale for each year of retirement prior to age 60.

So how can she go about increasing her retirement income? Dr Barton currently contributes 6 per cent of her income to her occupational pension, which leaves her 9 per cent that she may use for additional funding and still get full tax relief.

She has three options. She could purchase added years in her occupational scheme. This can be done by paying a lump sum outright or by making monthly contributions throughout the rest of her career. Regular contributions can be quite inflexible and work out expensive in the longer term.

Dr Barton could contribute to her occupational scheme's additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme. That restricts her to one provider, which usually involves smaller annual fund management charges, but may not always offer the best future benefits.

The third option involves contributing to a free-standing additional voluntary contribution scheme (FSAVC). This can be done on a regular annual or monthly contribution or in a series of single contributions. A series of single contributions would be the most cost-effective, but requires great discipline.

In addition, there are imponderables, such as the costs of raising a family, education funding and so on, that can easily paralyse what started out in life as the perfect solution.

If you want a financial makeover, write to Nic Cicutti, *Free Financial Makeover*, *The Independent*, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

A NORWICH UNION PEP

PEP up your

savings tax-free!

Call now for our free guide.



Our guide to the Norwich Global Tracking PEP will show you how to make your savings work harder.

- TAX-FREE growth - £6,000 invested at launch in July 1996 is now worth £7,356*
- No initial charges.
- Access to your money at any time.
- You can invest a lump sum from £1,000, or regular monthly payments from just £50.

0345 73 83 93

Call now quoting the reference number on the coupon below. Lines open 9am - 6pm, 7 days a week. Calls charged at local rates.

No one protects more.



INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

Yes, I would like a free guide to the Norwich Global Tracking PEP.

Please complete this coupon in BLOCK CAPITALS and return it to Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited, FREEPOST 4004, Norwich NR1 3BT.

Title _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone Number (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

REF: 21N37

*Please note that it might not be possible to continue investment in a PEP after April 1999 when the Government plan to introduce a new individual savings account. Past performance is no guide to the future; unit prices can go down as well as up. The performance of PEPs invested in equity based assets will reduce from April 1999 due to the loss of a reclaimable tax credit. You should consider PEPs a medium to long term investment. Funds invested abroad may also have exchange rate fluctuations. Information advice will only relate to Norwich Union products. We may telephone you to confirm receipt of your information pack. If you sell performance of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP, gross income will be reduced by 10% to 15%. Data that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your financial adviser or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your insurance and investment needs. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. The Personal Investment Authority and IMRO regulate Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited.

Low Cost Life Assurance

£100,000 Guaranteed Cover, 20 Year Term

MEN (NON SMOKER)

Age 30	Age 35
Eagle Star £10.26	Eagle Star £14.98
Guardian £10.50	Canada Life £15.80
Legal & General £10.90	Virgin Direct £16.37
Virgin Direct £10.93	Legal & General £16.60

WOMEN (NON SMOKER)

Age 30	Age 35
Eagle Star £7.95	Eagle Star £10.36
Virgin Direct £8.13	Virgin Direct £10.59
Guardian £8.30	Legal & General £11.10
Legal & General £8.50	Scottish Widows £11.35

Monthly Premiums, Age next birthday. Sample rates only, available age 18 to 64. Source: Term Direct, 3/8/97.



0800 77 66 66
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

PENSIONS and LIFE ASSURANCE...
DIRECTLY BY TELEPHONE

The plan must end before your 70th birthday. These figures are based on cover acceptable at ordinary rates. The plan is also available for ages 18 to 64 next birthday for various terms of cover. Full written details are available on request. For your protection, your call to Eagle Star may be recorded. Eagle Star Life Assurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information or advice will only be provided on Eagle Star products.

PERSONAL PENSIONS

Do you need a pension plan that's ready for life's unexpected turns?

No matter how carefully you plan, life has a habit of presenting us all with unexpected twists and turns. Early retirement; a change of career; children. All these can change your circumstances, so you need a pension plan which is flexible enough to let you cope with any changes - without penalty!

That is why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan, which:

- Lets you vary contributions - without penalty.
- Lets you retire earlier than planned - without penalty.
- Provides a full return of fund in the event of death before retirement.

The Equitable Life does not pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business. So, if you'd like to know more, call us direct on (0990) 38 48 58 or send off the coupon below for further information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BEDFORDSHIRE HP21 7BR

For The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR. I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed ☐ I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐ INFWD

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____

ADDRESS _____

Tel: (Office) _____

Tel: (Home) _____

Date of Birth _____



The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles



An ancestral chain, whereby artists initiate their sons, authenticates works like 'Crocodile Dreaming' by James Iyuna (above)

Sweet dreams of the Aborigines

Interest in Aboriginal art is growing, although many still worry about its provenance. In fact, as John Windsor explains, it is strictly regulated.

Art curator Georgina Martin, aged 26, rode a wild steer for 13 seconds at the Darwin rodeo in Australia, three seconds longer than prize time. But she failed to carry off any artworks by the Kunwinjku Aborigines during her four-week tour this summer of their rocky homeland, Oenpelli, in Arnhem Land, on the north coast.

She had no ready cash and the region's government-appointed art adviser seemed to have other ideas about who should get the distinctive ochre paintings on fibrous paper depicting ancestral spirits and animals of the immemorial Aboriginal Dreamtime.

Instead, Ms Martin has filled the October Gallery in Old Gloucester Street, Bloomsbury, with 39 paintings and carvings supplied by this century's most celebrated promoter of Aboriginal art, Dorothy Bennett, the federal Aboriginal art valuer. Ms Martin worked in her art gallery in Darwin three years ago.

Now aged 83, Mrs Bennett first encountered Aboriginal art - bark paintings - when she was stevedore to an orthopaedic medical expedition that toured Arnhem annually between 1954 and 1960.

It is as well that the art for sale in the October Gallery's exhibition, *Keepers of the Mimi Spirit* (the Mimi are stick-thin spirits who inhabit Dreamtime) has passed through her experienced hands. After all, what is Aboriginal art?

For most Brits, contemporary Aboriginal paintings and

wood carvings are still an enigma. Although dating back 40,000 years, Aboriginal art is the last great tradition of art to be appreciated by the world.

In Melbourne in June, Sotheby's third annual sale of Important Aboriginal Art - including 92 pieces gathered by Mrs Bennett for an American collector - sold 98 per cent by value and established a new world record price of \$206,000 (£90,640), for a water dreaming painting of 1972. Whereas in London last week, a particularly bubbly opening at the October Gallery yielded only a smattering of red dots.

The irony is that the Dreamtime paintings by the Kunwinjku of Oenpelli are probably the world's most most rigidly regulated art. The dreaming stories, about ancestral beings who are custodians of the natural law, ritual and correct behaviour in a particular place,

can be painted only by sons who have been indoctrinated into them at initiations conducted by their fathers.

"Age grading" initiations begin at the age of five, the dreaming stories are first heard at 18 and painting them is forbidden until the age 25. Initiates are looked up to and old men who have shirked initiation are regarded as still young, lacking in wisdom.

With the Aborigines' consent, all that can be revealed has been revealed in a book, *Kunwinjku Art From Injalak 1991-1992* (Museum Art International, 1994). It is an illustrated catalogue of the latest of five collections commissioned from artists of the highest stature in the region.

The October Gallery has for sale paintings by sons whose fathers' work appears in the book. The ancestral chain of the age-grading system provides

their provenance - the copying of another artist's dreamings by a non-initiate is a major transgression. Some Aboriginal peoples permit men without initiated descendants to initiate close relatives or non-related young men of stature. But not the Kunwinjku. The dreamings of an artist without initiate-heirs die with him. There has been some backsliding among minor artist families - but Mrs Bennett has a little list.

As well as paintings by Wesley Nganjinjira, nephew of the famous Bobby, there is a painting by one of Wesley's four sons, Luke, of a Mimi spirit and a wallaby (£750). The wallaby is the Mimi's sacred pet. Hunt them and the Mimi will hunt you and send you mad.

Keepers of the Mimi Spirit, to 4 October at the October Gallery, 24, Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 (0171-242 7367).

INTERNET INVESTOR

Web can put the City at your fingertips

An awful lot of rubbish has been written about the World Wide Web - and an awful lot more rubbish has been written on it. For most of the last few years the Internet has been hyped out of all proportion to its actual capabilities. After all, you still need a fairly complex computer set-up to be able to access the Internet and the number of homes with such computers remains in a minority.

The Internet is not the all-powerful super-computer of science fiction, but a linked network or networks of computers around the world, dating back in its earliest form to the Sixties.

The World Wide Web, which allows us to look at pages and interact with them on the Internet, is a child of the Nineties - created at the Cern physics laboratory in Switzerland in 1991. By July 1993 there were 50 Web servers (service providers to individual customers) around the world. Now the Web is doubling in size every few months.

Most of us have been unnecessarily blinded by all the science. Who, apart from computer enthusiasts, gets worked up about RAM, ROM, baud, bytes, hard drives and floppies? So this is not a column about hardware, nor, except where absolutely necessary, will I dwell on technicalities.

I am not quite addressing those of you who have a sneaking suspicion that a gigabyte is a hamburger on special offer - but how many of us drive cars, use TV remote controls and programme VCRs without knowing, and without needing to know, how cars, TV sets and VCRs really work?

OK, maybe programming the VCR is beyond many of us, but accessing the Web and making intelligent use of the resources on it shouldn't be.

Right now, you still need the computer and attendant gadgetry to hook up to a phone line to surf the Net. But that will change - is changing with the coming of digital TV. Within the next couple of years, the digital set-top box will allow you to surf the Net from your armchair as easily as you change channels now with a TV remote control.

This week Microsoft unveiled its box, developed by the company's WebTV subsidiary in time for the US Christmas

season. Information is downloaded via an ordinary television aerial but to send electronic mail or order services one would still need to book up to the Internet with a modem and phone line. It is not quite as simple as it needs to be yet but the mass-market Internet is not far off now.

Which is all very well, but what is it for? Apart, that is, from inordinate quantities of tacky pornography aimed squarely at adolescent America.

The answer to "Why bother?" for most of us is because what the Web does offer is information, masses and masses of information. Providing you know where to look and what to look for, you can out-trade the city institutions with better information at your fingertips for a fraction of what they spend on research and analysis.

You can see at a glance just which are the best performing investment funds, making your choice of the 1,600 or so funds available rather easier. You can avoid being bamboozled by shady customers trying to sell you dud investments and, from your PC and soon from your armchair, you can shop.

For example, Barclaysquare is Barclays Bank's Internet "shopping mall". It was launched two years ago. You can browse, that is electronically "visit" a number of leading stores including Argos, Victoria Wine and Toys R Us, making purchases with a credit card.

Now, in response to customer demand for the ability to make small purchases, Barclays has launched its own electronic money, or e-cash, called BarclayCoin.

The system allows users to transfer money from their Barclaycard account to an "electronic wallet" for online use. You simply choose your purchase and pay for it through the retailer's BarclayCoin "cash register".

But just how secure are Internet transactions, and how do you spot the rogues? Most importantly, what Web sites are worth visiting and which are the duds? What special deals - whether mortgages, investments or insurance - are available exclusively to Internet users? These are some of the issues we will return to in the next few weeks.

-Robin Arnott

Thought for the day

The average retirement lasts 20-30 years. Will you be sitting pretty?

It's time to think about your future. The average retirement lasts 20-30 years. Will you be sitting pretty? If not, it's time to think about your future. The average retirement lasts 20-30 years. Will you be sitting pretty?

0117 242 7367

See an IFA

Is this the IDEAL pension?

Looking for a personal pension plan that offers all the essential benefits and assurances? You're looking at it now.

- Index-tracking for growth at low cost
- Fully portable from job to job
- Low charges and no hidden extras
- Freedom to vary payments
- Stop and start payments to suit your circumstances
- Payment protection options

And you can start your pension plan from just £50 a month. Call us without obligation on 0500 65 65 65.

Legal & General
TRUST US TO DELIVER

Please send me a personal illustration and information pack on the Legal & General Personal Pension Plan. B10/DJ16

Title: (Mr/Ms/Miss/Other) _____ Forename: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Are you: Self-employed ☐ I plan to retire at: _____ (50 to 75)

Employed ☐ Unemployed ☐ Date of birth: / /

I am / am not currently in an employer's pension scheme. Initial contribution (Gross):

Minimum is appropriate \$ _____ per month (min. £50)

Income: \$ _____ p.a. \$ _____ per annum (min. £500)

\$ _____ single (min. £2,000)

Please post to: Legal & General Personal Pension Plan, FREEPOST (SWC1060), Cardiff CF1 1YU. For further information on our products: <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

Take the first steps to starting your pension now

0500 65 65 65

Call now, quoting reference B10/DJ16 or talk to your financial adviser

Subject to Legal & General's approval. Value of contribution. The value of units may go down as well as up. Now and then, we may tell you about our other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IFA for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Terms and conditions available on request. Legal & General Direct Limited, Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

4/PERSONAL FINANCE

THE INDEPENDENT Free guide to Mortgages



A 27 page guide to the ins and outs of choosing a mortgage

For your free copy call 0800 585 691
Or complete and return this coupon to
Barclays Mortgage Guide
FREEPOST PO Box 7, Brantford, Middlesbrough, Cumbria, TS9 9BB

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____ Postcode _____

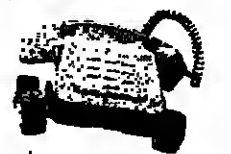
Tel (inc STD) _____
Are you a Barclays Customer? Yes ☐ No ☐
Are you a 1st time buyer? ☐ Home mover ☐

The information on this form will be stored on computer and used to identify products or services which might be relevant to you. If you do not wish to receive future information from Barclays Mortgages please tick ☐

DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES	
Direct Line Instant Access Account	ANNUAL GROSS RATE
BALANCE	5.55%
£1-£1,000	5.95%
£1,001-£2,500	6.05%
£2,501-£5,000	6.75%
£5,001-£10,000	6.95%
£10,001+	7.00%
MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	7.50%
APR	7.8%

All rates correct as at 18 September 1997.



0181 649 9099
MORTGAGES

0181 667 1121
SAVINGS

www.directline.co.uk

A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. IND 6628

Mortgages and savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 256 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5NF. For savings, deposits and withdrawals via your bank account - allow 3 working days. The gross rate is the net rate without deduction of income tax and is based on annual interest on savings. Full terms and conditions of the account are available on request. For mortgages, the interest rate to cover the amount of the loan and is based on a first legal charge (second charge - variable) over the property will be required. There is a mortgage fee of £2,000 to £2,500 per annum available for up to 10% of the property value at purchase price, whichever is the lower. Interest payments are subject to a 10% cap on the total interest payable. All rates quoted above are variable. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

For more advice on mortgages and savings visit our website at www.directline.co.uk or call 0800 585 691. Direct Line and the red telephone icon are trademarks of Direct Line Financial Services plc and used with its permission.

BEST BORROWING RATES

Telephone	% Rate and period	Min. adv %	Fin. incentives
MORTGAGES			
FIXED RATES			
Northern Rock BS	0800 591800	4.85% to 11.00%	7.75% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
First Mortgage	0800 080000	6.25% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
Country BS	0800 189125	4.85% to 11.00%	7.75% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES			
Scotcharge BS	0200 320140	4.50% to 11.00%	7.75% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
Principality BS	01222 344100	6.80% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	6.75% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
FIRST TIME BUYERS FIXED RATES			
Direct Line	0800 119555	6.75% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
Local branch	0800 119555	6.75% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
First Mortgage	0800 080000	6.75% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
FIRST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES			
Direct Line	0800 119555	6.75% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
Local branch	0800 119555	6.75% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)
First Mortgage	0800 080000	6.75% to 11.00%	9.00% to 11.00% (10% of adv)

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

Telephone	APR %	Min. LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£300 over 3 yrs)
UNSECURED			
Direct Line	0181 649 9099	12.5%	£135.00
Harmon Direct Bank	0800 200000	12.5%	£135.00
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	12.5%	£135.00
SECURED (SECOND CHARGE)			
Direct Line	0181 649 9099	12.5%	£135.00
Harmon Direct Bank	0800 200000	12.5%	£135.00
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	12.5%	£135.00

OVERDRAFTS

Telephone	Account	APR %	Min. LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£300 over 3 yrs)
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00

CREDIT CARDS

Telephone	Card Type	Min. LTV	APR %	Fixed monthly payments (£300 over 3 yrs)
STANDARD				
Capital One Bank	0800 600000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00
Co-operative Bank	0800 100000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00
Robert Moneybags	0800 800000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00
GOLD CARDS				
Capital One Bank	0800 600000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00
Co-operative Bank	0800 100000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00
Robert Moneybags	0800 800000	12.5%	12.5%	£135.00

STORE CARDS

Telephone	Payment by direct debit	Payment by other methods
John Lewis	01244 681801	1.00%
Mark & Spencer	01244 681801	1.00%
Next	01244 681801	1.00%

All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01802 500677 18 Sept 1997

BEST SAVINGS RATES

Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
INSTANT ACCESS					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
FIXED RATE BONDS					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
FIRST TESSAS					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
FOLLOW-ON TESSAS					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (gross)					
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)

Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (gross)

Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)

Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (gross)

Telephone	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
Alfred & Laker	0800 600000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Bank of Scotland	0800 570000	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year
Country BS	0800 189125	Instant	£2,000	4.50%	Year



BRIAN TORA

A black day to remember

I am a great one for anniversaries. For instance, next month is the 10th anniversary of the 1987 stock market crash. This week also commemorated another financial landmark: Black Wednesday 1992, when we withdrew from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. The ERM was conceived as a forerunner to a single European currency. The aim was to use the collective clout of central banks to engineer a smooth transition to one unit of exchange. But it did rather ignore the fact that not all European economies pull in the same direction at once. To give the Iron Lady her due, Margaret Thatcher was never a great fan of ERM. It was John Major, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, who drove the process forward. He was prime minister by the time the cracks appeared and Norman Lamont had inherited the Chancellorship. Seen at the time as a reward for his loyal support in the leadership contest, it turned out to be a poisoned chalice. In the early 1990s Britain was still reeling from the effects of recession. Spiralling house prices had been replaced with negative equity. The time had come for cheaper money to restore confidence. But this was not on the German agenda. In the summer of 1992, the reformation of Germany had created strains in the economy and the bankers in Frankfurt were anxious to ensure that the unleashing of pent-up consumer demand in the former East Germany did not lead to rising inflation. At the September meeting of finance ministers chaired by Norman Lamont, he endeavoured to secure rising German interest rates. It must have been difficult for a British chancellor, used to being able to set interest rate policy himself, to realise this was not in a German politician's gift. Of course, it was not just Britain that suffered. Italy was forced out, leaving the field clear for speculators against sterling. The Government's frenzied attempts to avoid ejection - including bringing bank rates to 15 per cent - were to no avail. Despite the Bank of England throwing nearly £20bn at the problem, the pound had to withdraw. There are, of course, lessons to be learned. It is worth remembering that EMU stands for economic and monetary union - not, as many people believe, for European monetary union. A single European currency means a single European economy. Scapisms will point to the fact that what is good for Leipzig may not be so efficacious in Lille or Liverpool. But Brussels remains committed to the experiment. It will be interesting to see whether it becomes an even greater embarrassment than that of Black Wednesday just five years ago. Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee at Greg Middleton. He can be contacted on 0171 6554000.

NO TIME TO BUILD A GLOBAL PORTFOLIO?

TIME TO CALL SCHRODERS.

Why take the time and the trouble to build your own global portfolio when Schroders have done all the hard work for you?

The Schröder Strategic Fund - a fund of funds - offers you a fully diversified global portfolio in a single investment.

First Schroders carefully choose a range of stocks for each one of our unit trusts. Then our fund managers select - and monitor - which combination of these funds will form the optimum portfolio.

So, if you have £10,000 to invest, find out more about the Schröder Strategic Fund by calling or returning the coupon.

0800 002 000
Quoting ref 651

TO: SCHRODERS, CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT, 6251 FREESTONE, LONDON NW4 4TQ.

Please send me my free copy of the Schröder Strategic Management Service brochure. Alternatively, contact your usual Financial Adviser.

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Date of Birth _____

From what source does your investment money usually come?

Salary ☐ Retirement package ☐ A savings from another investment ☐ Other (please state): _____

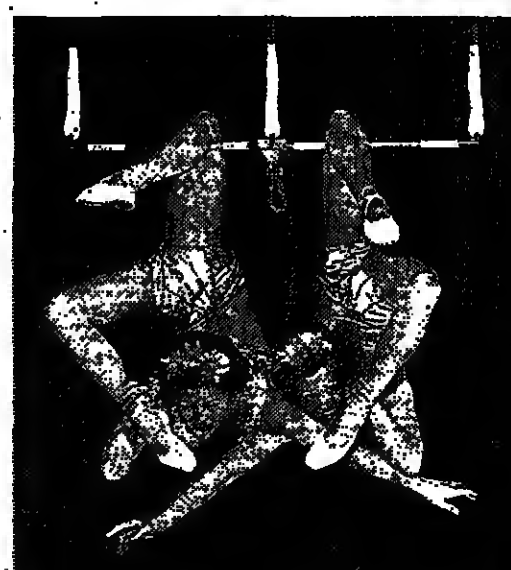
Fast performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Issued by Schroder Unit Trusts Limited, 6251 Freestone, London NW4 4TQ. Regulated by DMO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AUTIP.

Two Top Performers in one Class Act

The Framlington Health and Financial PEP invests in two sectors which show continuing strong performance and growth. If you want to maximise your tax free savings in a PEP that provides the opportunity of investing in two funds in the top 10% of all unit trusts, return the coupon or call

0345 023138



Health Fund
TOP 10%

all unit trusts
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 years and since launch

Financial Fund
TOP 10%

all unit trusts
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 years and since launch

Please send me details of the Framlington Health and Financial PEP. Return the coupon to: Framlington Unit Management Limited, Freepost, P.O. Box 2, Turf, Reading, Berkshire RG10 8BR.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Postcode _____

framlington

Source and basis of performance: Microcap, offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1 September 1997. Issued by Framlington Unit Management Limited, regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and DMO. Member of AUTIP. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The Framlington Health & Financial PEP invests in specialist funds which are therefore more volatile than general unit funds and an investment should be for the medium to long term. The price of units and the income from them can fall as well as rise and the investor may therefore not get back the full amount invested. Exchange rates may cause the value of overseas investments to fluctuate. The tax regime under which PEPs exist is likely to change by future legislation. The value of tax savings will depend on individual circumstances. The Government has announced that from 1999 tax advantaged schemes, such as PEPs and TESSAs, will be replaced with a new Individual Savings Account (ISA). Details of what form the ISA will take are not yet available.

WOMEN'S PENSIONS

Why am I penalised for marrying again?

Women live eight years longer than men on average, yet their pensions are likely to be £20 a week lower when they retire. As the TUC launches a campaign to raise public awareness on the subject, *Nik Gouti* asks why women get such a raw deal and what they can do about it.

Joan Warren knows just how she could increase her retirement income. All she needs to do one week before she steps down from her job in three years' time is to divorce her husband. Then, a week after she has retired, she can marry him again.

If she took this simple step, Ms Warren would be better off to the tune of up to £18 a week until she dies. The reason? She is caught in a Kafkaesque benefits trap which penalises her not for divorcing her first husband in 1985 but for marrying again a few years later.

Ms Warren, a property lawyer in Manchester, took a career break to raise her children between 1962 and 1970. During that time, the DSS accepted that her husband's National Insurance contributions could count towards her state pension. After her divorce, the same situation applied.

It was only when she remarried that she discovered her former husband's contri-

butions would no longer count towards her pension. "This is ludicrous," she says. "I have spent the last few years writing letter after letter to sort this out. I finally asked whether if I got divorced and then remarried, my husband's contributions would apply again. They said this was correct."

Ms Warren's plight is typical of hundreds of thousands of women affected by a series of petty rules such as this one. Almost 40 per cent will retire on an income of less than £40 a week, according to PensionShare, a telephone pensions company.

Among the most recent changes to hit women was the former Conservative government's decision - under the banner of sex equality - to raise the retirement age in stages from 60 to 65. Women under the age of 35 will be hardest hit by this.

Women's patterns of employment also lead to ensure they receive less at retirement. Traditionally, women have depended on men for their pensions. But new lifestyles, which include simply living together, make this a less likely option.

Career breaks to care for children or elderly relatives also hit women hardest. Research by Colonial, the financial services provider, shows that if a woman aged 20 starts a personal pension and then takes a four-year break at 28 to start a family, she would build up a retirement fund worth a quarter less than someone who

carried on working to 60. Part of the problem is that women, who are more likely to stop work at that age, are not allowed to contribute to a pension over that period. Even when they are in work, their contributions are half those of men.

For those who are employed, women are less likely to be in workplaces with occupational schemes. Their traditionally lower pay and fewer years of service mean their pensions will be lower.

The Trades Union Congress campaign next week includes a freephone number for advice on any pensions issue. Unions are asking the Government for more flexibility in occupational schemes and for unearned income to be allowed as a source for pension contributions.

The TUC also wants a new state pension for women who cannot join an occupational scheme.

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, says: "With nearly 12 million people in work, and many of these entitled to some form of pension, this campaign should go some way towards enabling women to make provision for themselves."

As for Joan Warren, any changes may come too late. She says: "I feel this is very unfair. Why should I be told that the only way I can get a decent pension is to divorce my husband?"

TUC Helpline 0800 882123, 10.30am-7.30pm, Mon-Fri



Joan Warren: Caught in a bizarre benefits trap created by petty rules
Photograph: NTMC

DO'S AND DON'TS

Do:

- Ask the Pensions Office to tell you how much state pension you will receive. The address is available from any DSS office.
- Join your occupational pension scheme if you are entitled.
- Inquire about the possibility

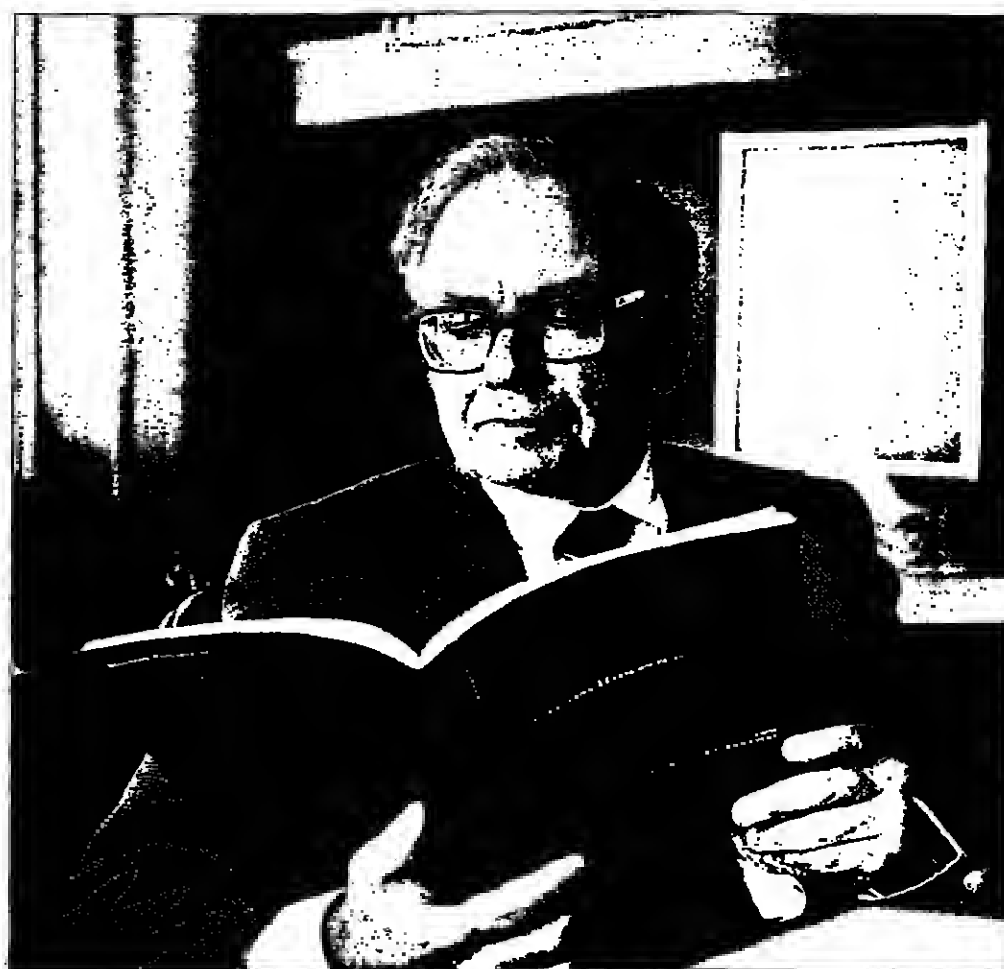
of "buying" extra years of pension entitlements. Or pay into a company pension top-up scheme, called Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs).

Don't:

- Assume the state pension is enough. It is too low now and will be worth less when you retire.
- Assume you can live off your husband. You may well have dumped him (or vice versa) by the time you are retired.



THE
JONATHAN
DAVIS
COLUMN



Warren Buffett: His move could be seen as bullish, rather than negative, for shares

Warren Buffett has never had a bad year, so when he sells it is time to watch out

Reports this week that the famous American investor Warren Buffett has been selling some of his shares and has been buying \$10bn of zero coupon bonds instead are the kind of development that every investor ought to stop and ponder hard.

The implications of the move are not quite as obvious as they first appear, however - one reason why the reports were promptly succeeded last Tuesday by a 175-point jump in the Dow Jones index, one of the largest single daily increases on record.

Surely if even the mighty Buffett has decided that share prices are overvalued, then the market ought to be falling, not rising - and we all ought to be reaching for the Alfa-Seltzer?

Well, needless to say, it is not as simple as that. One reason is that the reports have not been confirmed, and won't be for a while yet. Buffett has a policy of never commenting on what he is buying and selling.

It will not be until the publication of the latest statutory report from his company, Berkshire Hathaway, that we find out whether there have in fact been any major changes in his holdings. But assume for the moment that the reports are broadly true. (As a long-term Buffett watcher, I would not be at all surprised to find that they are.) It is not exactly a shock to discover that Buffett thinks Wall Street is overvalued. He pretty well said as much in his last annual report.

As a long-term investor, he is unlikely to have considered disposing in toto of any of his major investments, but it would be perfectly logical for him to lighten some of his substantial holdings in Coca-Cola, Gillette and others of the strong franchise companies which make up the bulk (by value) of his portfolio. What would such a move signify?

Well, one thing of which Buffett is inordinately (and justifiably) proud of is the fact that he has never had a down year in more than 40 years of investing money on behalf of others. And while

he has been saying year-in-year-out for more than a decade that such a year must in due course arrive, you can be certain that it is not a record which he intends to give up lightly.

Long-term returns are what he is primarily interested in, but if he has been taking steps to shift the balance of his portfolio, so as to try and preserve that record, it would hardly be a surprise. But what about the significance of buying bonds? We do not know exactly what kind of bonds he is said to have been buying, though the reports imply that he has been investing in stripped or zero-coupon government securities.

These are essentially bonds which pay no income but which are priced to produce attractive capital returns over time. Their key features as investments are firstly that their value is determined almost exclusively by movements in market interest rates - if interest rates fall, their value will rise, if interest rates rise, their value will fall - and secondly that they are geared, or leveraged, plays on future interest rate movements.

As a general rule, bonds with the longest terms to maturity and the lowest coupons demonstrate the greatest proportionate increase in price when interest rates change.

By buying zero coupon bonds, Buffett would seem to be making a big bet on the fact that interest rates are likely to fall. (There are also complicated tax reasons why he might want to buy this kind of security rather than a conventional interest-paying bond.)

This is where the development becomes interesting. If it turns out that Buffett does think that interest rates are going to fall, he is paradoxically aligning himself with one of the key arguments of those who say that Wall Street, however overvalued it may look on conventional criteria, can still sustain its impressive hull run for some time yet.

The steadiness of the long bond rate in the US, now around 6.4 per cent and close to its lowest level for 30 years, is one of the factors which has helped to underpin the strength of the American market in the last two frantic years.

So you could argue that Buffett's move is actually bullish, rather than negative, for share

prices, in which case the market's big jump last week should not be a surprise. That overlooks two things, however. One is that the recent strength of Wall Street, just like the London stock market, has been very unbalanced.

It has been the big blue chip companies such as Coca-Cola and Gillette which until recently have been making all the running in the bull market and which look most overvalued.

Smaller companies have been left trailing in their wake. It is perfectly consistent to say at one and the same time that big companies of the kind which Buffett tends to own have become overvalued and to think that the long-term outlook for interest rates is still more positive than worries in the stock market think.

The second thing to remember is that there is no reason why the relationship between bonds and equities cannot change over time. Conventional wisdom now is that equities offer the best long-term return for any investor entering the market, even after allowing for their extra volatility. That kind of argument is one reason why pension funds in this country have around 80 per cent of their assets in shares, rather than bonds.

Inflation is the great slayer of bonds, and computer simulation exercises have "proved" that in a traditionally inflation-prone country such as the UK, bonds should have had no place at all in any "optimised" portfolio constructed over the last 30 years.

I have always regarded this kind of argument as dangerously suspect. The past is not the present. If Buffett's move turns out to be confirmed, then I suspect it is telling us something important about the relationship between fixed-interest securities and shares in a low-inflation environment.

Bonds have had a good 1990s so far and even though conventional wisdom is still that the risk-adjusted prospective returns on equities remain superior, nothing is forever in investment. The gilt-equity yield ratio is still in traditional territory, but it is more than possible we have not yet seen the end of movement in the relative risk-reward ratio of the two classes.

PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE

24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

0345 6789 10

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

6/PERSONAL FINANCE

SURVEY/ OFFSHORE FUNDS

It's not just for the rich and criminals, ordinary savers can prosper as well

Investing offshore is usually seen as being something only for the very rich, expatriates who work and live abroad, people wanting to hide their funds from the tax man or for crooks wanting to launder their loot.

This is misguided. The name of the offshore investment game has changed. As with most financial products, it is now mostly about tax planning rather than tax dodging. There are still tax havens where anything goes. Ordinary UK investors use them at their peril.

Rather, by using the offshore offices of well-known names, usually based in centres such as Dublin, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Luxembourg, you can accumulate funds in a tax-efficient way. Whether looking at retirement, mitigating the effects of inheritance tax, building a nest egg to pay for school fees or an income for a child that will be going to university, offshore investments offer the ability to defer tax.

It is this that makes them an attractive means of saving, not just for the rich but also for the ordinary investor. This survey guides you through the



Plan ahead: investments can be made in for children and the proceeds handed over when they are older. Photograph: John Lawrence

maze of putting funds safely overseas and highlights some typical products. The aim is to give a few ideas of what can be done with your money. We look not only at the regulations and taxation effects of investing offshore but also at the types of investment and

the fund managers involved. Before you make a final decision, be prepared to carry out your own research. Most importantly, talk to an expert in this area. Offshore investment is not fantastically difficult. It is not for novices either.

-Tony Lyons

Minimise tax and make the most of greater investment freedom

The past 15 years have seen an explosion in the number of companies offering offshore investments. Their main attractions include the potential to minimise taxes, their greater investment freedom and the opportunity for above-average returns. Tony Lyons explains.

Most well-known banks, building societies, life assurance companies, and unit trust and fund management groups have opened branches in the main offshore investment centres.

While they can be used by the local population and UK residents working and living abroad, they are mainly for British residents who want to benefit from the advantages they offer.

Unlike UK investments, where income can be subject to the 20 per cent tax rate and any capital gains over £6,500 are taxed at 40 per cent (with indexation allowances), all income and gains from offshore investments are liable to income tax.

Legally, any income from dividends or interest and any capital gains made offshore has to be declared. As the old saying goes, tax avoidance is fine, but tax evasion is illegal.

There are, however, means of deferring tax, and this is the main benefit offered to UK investors by offshore funds. The most popular types of investment today for the offshore investor are the so-called "roll-up" and "distributor" funds.

Distributor funds must pay out at least

85 per cent of their income as dividends. Investors receive the income gross and then pay income tax on this and capital gains tax on any other profits.

Roll-up funds operate in much the same way as many UK growth unit trusts in that they are accumulator funds. This means that all the income and gains made by the fund are reinvested by the fund manager. The investor will only have to pay UK tax when the investment is cashed in, which means taking the proceeds when the investor is paying little or no tax.

For this reason, roll-up funds have a useful role to play in any long-term savings plan such as for retirement. Unlike personal pensions, there is no maximum limit on how much can be invested. Higher-rate taxpayers can use such a savings vehicle, taking the proceeds on retirement when their income has reverted to basic rate.

Or an investment could be made in a child's name. The fund could then be handed over to the child at a given age, usually 18 or 21. Alternatively, income from the fund could be paid to the child on a monthly or quarterly basis when they reach 18 to fund university studies. As the child may well have other income, the income would be tax-free.

Nor does the use of roll-up funds restrict investment choice. Offshore management groups usually offer them in what are known as "umbrella funds". Here, an investor has a choice of various underlying funds, covering all areas of investment, to switch in and out of, usually at very low cost or none at all.

Investment bonds offered by the offshore branches of life offices can be used to reduce the impact of inheritance tax. This, however, is a more complicated

area. Anyone who thinks their estate could be liable to this tax should take advice from an independent financial adviser.

Offshore investment also offers other tax advantages. Fund managers are not restricted by the UK's investment rules and regulations. This has benefits, although it can lead to much higher risks. Tax on any dividends earned by the fund's portfolio is only levied at the local rate, which is often nil. And capital gains made by the fund are tax-free.

Also, the only restrictions on what the funds can invest in are those imposed by the managers themselves. This means that, unlike a UK-based fund, if a manager feels that the market is about to crash, he or she can convert the portfolio totally into cash. Funds can also invest in property and other investments not open to authorised unit trusts.

When investing offshore, charges tend to be higher than for similar mainland investment vehicles. You should reckon on paying around 0.5 to 1 per cent more in annual charges.

But in return you can benefit from better performance. Over the past year, for example, the average growth fund has risen by some 18 per cent in value. This compares with the average offshore growth fund that has gone up some 22 per cent.

For safety and value, it pays the average investor to use an independent financial adviser (IFA) for advice on investing offshore. IFAs will help you avoid the pitfalls and ensure that you understand how your money is being invested and what the risks are.

For an adviser near you, contact IFA Promotion on 0117 9711177.

for performance with a

Safeguard,

go with Govett.

Every investor wants the growth that stockmarket investment can provide. But few are prepared to take the risks of sudden falls. Now, with the Govett UK Equity Safeguard Fund, you don't have to. It's a new kind of fund that provides exposure to rises in the FTSE 100 Index but, unlike other funds, it can protect your money when the index drops. That's why it has the potential to beat the Index over the longer term. And, for value, Safeguard takes some beating itself. With the Safeguard PEP, there are no additional entry or exit fees and, of course, gains are entirely tax free. Where else can you find such superior performance potential, built-in protection and outstanding value? To go with Govett, speak to your usual financial adviser, fill in the coupon or call the number below.

**Govett UK Equity
Safeguard PEP**
0845 300 90 90 90

astute investors go with



Please send me a brochure for the Govett UK Equity Safeguard PEP.
Post to: Customer Services Department, AIB Govett, Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Surname Initial Address Postcode Tel (incl. STD).

Information you provide may be used to inform you of other products and services available from AIB Govett. If you do not wish to receive such information please tick here ☐ PEP 12900

ANSWER YES TO ANY ONE OF THESE 3 QUESTIONS

AND YOU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 3-PART OFFER WORTH MORE THAN £17.50

- 1) Do you save any of your money? Yes ☐ No ☐
- 2) Do you feel that you should get more from your savings or investments? Yes ☐ No ☐
- 3) Would you like to find out how, from real experts who will never try to sell you a single product? Yes ☐ No ☐

Personal Finance magazine is written especially for those that are new to investing and saving, or have too little time to find out all about the options for themselves.

Each month the magazine explains all the complexities in everyday jargon-free language covering topics such as:

- PEPs • Pension and savings plan investments • Investment Trusts
- Unit Trusts • Life Insurance
- ...and much, much more.

All for only £2.25 each month from your newsagent. But take up this founder subscriber offer, and you'll pay less than £1.45 an issue.

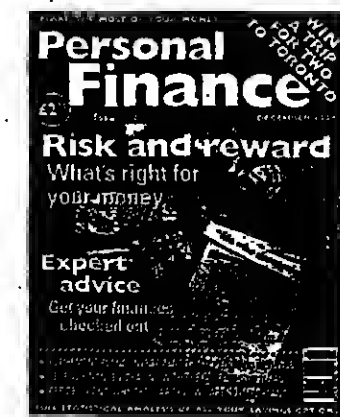
Part 1 - With this massive 37% discount you may already be reaching for your cheque book. Well, hold on a minute. If you choose to pay your subscription by standing order - not only need you SEND NO MONEY NOW - but we will hold your subscription at this price forever. THEN THERE'S MORE.

Part 2 - The jargon-busting A to Z of Personal Finance explains what all those complicated financial terms really mean. The news-stand price for this invaluable companion publication to the magazine is £2.50.

For subscribers to Personal Finance Magazine it's entirely free.

Part 3 - What PEP gives you all the details on how you can get the most out of saving tax free. Published twice a year, the price of this publication is £2.50 per issue. For you both issues (worth £5.00) will be £0.00.

So - whether you select standing order or cash - fill and send back this coupon right away (postage is paid) and we'll help make sure you find out how to make the most of your money.



SUBSCRIBE NOW AND SAVE OVER £17.50

I wish to become a subscriber to Personal Finance magazine for only £16.95 for 12 issues and claim The A to Z of Personal Finance (worth £2.50) and the two editions of What PEP (worth £5.00) both Free to subscribers.

STANDING ORDERS

Account to be debited

Account No

Signature(s)

To

Branch

Address

Sort Code

Bank

Please pay Lloyds Bank, 6 Holborn Circus, London EC1

(30 94 51) for the credit of Personal Finance Magazine

Account No 0029125 the sum of £16.95 and £16.95 on the

credit date each exceeding year until further notice in

writing and debit my/our account accordingly.

From time to time you may receive information from other carefully selected organisations about items that could be of interest to you.

I enclose a cheque for £16.95 drawn on a UK bank and made payable to

Charterhouse Communications Group Ltd. ☐

Please debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Diners ☐

Card No

Expires End

Signature

IN ALL CASES PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Complete the coupon and return to:

Personal Finance, FREEPOST,

4 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 2BT

PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY. OFFER OPEN TO UK ONLY. Subject to VAT on magazine.

SURVEY/ OFFSHORE FUNDS

Although dauntingly different at first sight, many offshore funds run by UK fund managers have identical investment objectives to their onshore siblings. But, warns Abigail Montrose, investors should beware of different charges levied on each product.

Offshore investment funds are often overlooked by ordinary investors. But for those who want to defer paying tax on their investment, or who want to video their choice of investment to include funds not authorised in the UK, such as hedging funds, the offshore route can be attractive.

Most funds are set up as companies, so they issue shares rather than units. However, they are open ended, which means that there is no limit on the number of shares that can be issued—similar to unit trusts. Most have a single price which you buy and sell at.

Many offshore funds are run by large investment houses which are UK household names, such as Barclays, HSBC, Commercial Union, Schroder and Perpetual. Most of them have a subsidiary in one of the main offshore centres of Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Luxembourg, Dublin and Bermuda. Often the offshore funds offered by a company are similar to the unit trust funds they run in the UK. In fact, it is not unusual for the same fund manager to run an onshore and an offshore fund version using the same strategy.



The sky's the limit: Offshore centres include Bermuda (above) as well as nearer locations like the Channel Islands

Same funds, different fees

Funds can be single funds or umbrella funds. Umbrella funds are the more diverse of the two as they house a range of sub-funds, from four to 25 funds, and it is usually cheap and easy to switch money between the sub-funds. Companies offering umbrella funds include Guinness Flight Hamlyn, Templeton, Fidelity, Flemings and Scottish Equitable.

Although annual management charges on offshore funds look similar to their equivalent

onshore unit trusts, investors need to check closely for extra charges. Last year, the offshore fund research specialist Fitzrovia International compared the costs of offshore funds with onshore unit trusts and discovered that in some cases offshore investment funds were charging up to three times their quoted management fees in hidden expenses.

Among companies doing this was Sun Life European Growth Portfolio fund. It quoted an

annual management fee of 1.5 per cent, but once all the extra annual charges were added together, the real charge was almost 5 per cent.

Sun Life has since taken steps to improve its charging structure, but investors should ask offshore fund managers for the total annual percentage charges on an offshore fund before committing themselves.

Paul Moulton, managing director of Fitzrovia International, says: "Charges on off-

shore funds are marginally more expensive on average than their almost identical onshore funds run by the same companies. But this is not always the case."

Where an investment house offers an offshore version of one of its onshore funds, the investment performance of the two funds tends to be similar. Differences are likely to occur only where the charges are different, or if one of the funds suddenly has a large inflow or outflow of investment money.

Take your pick where you stash your cash

The subsidiaries of investment houses, insurers, banks and building societies may be based in one of several offshore centres, including Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Luxembourg, Dublin and even Bermuda. But the choice of particular centre is largely irrelevant, based largely on historical factors and on convenience at the time the subsidiary was set up. Sometimes, subsidiaries will be established in more than one offshore centre, offering different products and services from the different sites.

Recently, Luxembourg and Dublin have become very popular offshore centres for companies as they can offer UCITS funds (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities).

UCITS are becoming the standard type of fund, sold across Europe. So for a company with European aspirations, this is the best type of fund to offer.

Because of the tax breaks offered by the governments in Dublin and Luxembourg, these are the ideal centres to operate UCITS from.

More than 40 life insurance companies have an offshore branch in Luxembourg, including Commercial Union and Scottish Equitable, while numerous investment houses and banks also have offices there, including Aberdeen Fund Managers, Barclays, Flemings, Fidelity, Foreign & Colonial, GT Global, HSBC, Invesco, Jupiter, Lloyds Bank, Mercury Asset Management, Rothschild and Schroders.

Dublin houses the offshore subsidiaries of equally well known names, including Abbey National, Scottish Amicable, Barings, Coutts & Co, Prolific, Lazard, Irish Life, Midland Life, and Old Mutual.

Jersey has long been one of the world's top offshore centres. It is the home to the

offshore offices of many UK companies, including Barclays, Garimont, Hill Samuel, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, Newton fund managers, Perpetual, Prudential, TSB, Flemings and many more.

The other popular Channel Island for the offshore arms of investment houses is Guernsey. Companies with offices in Guernsey include Guinness Flight, Kleinwort Benson, Rothschilds, Credit Suisse Schroders and Lloyds Bank.

The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are the favoured homes for banks and building societies offering offshore accounts.

Abbey National, Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Halifax, Hill Samuel Bank, Lloyds, Midland, NatWest and the Royal Bank of Scotland are all in Jersey.

Alliance & Leicester, Allied Dunbar Bank, Bradford & Bingley, Halifax, Midland and Nationwide are on the Isle of Man.

The address and telephone number of a company's offshore office can usually be obtained by contacting its UK head office for details.

There are other more exotic locations such as Anguilla, Antigua, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Madeira, Malta, Netherlands Antilles, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent.

But the funds based there are not recognised by the UK Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the main City financial regulator.

Many of the management groups will be unfamiliar to UK investors. Common sense suggests they should not be looked at unless investors have received good advice and know what the risks are.

—Abigail Montrose



Long-range investment: All kinds of financial institutions offer offshore funds or accounts

Don't stray too far from home if you want security

From Alderney to Uruguay, there are over 40 locations which offer the kind of favourable tax environment that some investors seek. But to invest wisely you should follow a few basic rules — or stick to safer fixed interest products, writes Simon Read.

Security is essential when it comes to handing money over. You want to feel that your investment is safe and that the financial authorities are trustworthy. Are you comfortable dealing with the bankers on the tiny East Caribbean twin islands of St Kitts and Nevis, for instance, or would you feel happier with your money closer to home?

Accessibility is the third key aspect. There are three elements to this—communication, infrastructure and currency. You will want regular information on your savings, so choosing an English-speaking centre makes sense. Time zones are important.

You may want to visit your offshore financial centre at some stage. If so, Jersey is just an hour or so flying time away from the mainland, while Mauritius is the almost half way round the world. Infrastructure means having access to appropriate local experts, such as lawyers and accountants.

Finally, currency is important. Local currencies can be much more volatile than the main international ones. If you

want to invest in sterling or dollars, or even the French franc, you will need to find centres that allow you to do so.

Realistically, most UK investors should be keeping the choices down to the Channel Islands — either Jersey or Guernsey — the Isle of Man, Eire and mainland Europe, chiefly Switzerland or Luxembourg.

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have "designated territory" status in the UK, which means that their regulatory standards are deemed equal to those in Britain.

Going offshore with your savings may seem exciting. But finding a safe home for a lump-sum investment soon brings investors back down to earth. Fixed-interest bonds may not sparkle in performance terms, but they are usually far safer than investing in equities.

Generally, apart from low-yielding instant deposit accounts, the minimum investment term usually starts from six months and extends up to five years or more. The longer the investment term, the better the rate offered.

The amount you invest will also affect the rate of return, with larger sums getting more interest. Minimum investment levels can start as low as £500 with Portman Channel Islands, the offshore subsidiary of the Portman Building Society. Based on Alderney, one of the smaller Channel Islands, it will pay a minimum rate of interest of 7.25 per cent on lump sums deposited for one year.

Most fixed-rate financial products pay interest at the

end of the investment return when the account matures. However, if you want interest paid monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually, there is a wide choice.

On offer at the moment, you can get 7.45 per cent a year over five years for an investment of £10,000 or more at Halifax International (Jersey). Shorter investment periods will mean lower interest rates. So for four years, Halifax pays 7.4 per cent, for three years 7.3 per cent, for two years 7.2 per cent, for one year 7.1 per cent and for just six months.

At the offshore Co-operative Bank, a three-year fixed investment will yield 7.25 per cent, although interest is not compounded, while Barclays Finance (Guernsey) is paying 7 per cent over five years. Other high street institutions offering fixed-rate accounts at their offshore subsidiaries include Bank of Scotland, Britannia International, National Westminster (Jersey), Northern Rock and TSB Bank Channel Islands.

If you're prepared to try one of the less well-known names it may be worth tracking down companies such as ESB Bank (IOM), Isle of Man Bank, Newcastle Bank (Gibraltar), Northern Offshore Banking and Sun Banking Corp (Jersey), which offer fixed-rate accounts.

Details of the latest rates are available by calling these companies direct or by asking at their high street branches. Moneyfacts, the specialist financial magazine, publishes a monthly list of top rates.

Moneyfacts subscription enquiries: 01692 500665.

A truly WORLD CLASS investment.

Right now, we can offer you a unique investment opportunity only available from Nationwide.

Our World Guaranteed Equity Bond, which is available from as little as £5000, has been designed to deliver an outstanding return on your money combined with a guarantee of total capital security.

To achieve this, Nationwide has carefully selected an elite band of top 1000 companies from the world's major stock markets, including names such as Coca Cola, Sony, BT and Mercedes.

The combination of these companies has produced outstanding growth over the last five years - no less than

123%*. Given the strength, performance and worldwide appeal of these companies, the potential remains for outstanding growth.

Whatever happens, after the 5 year term you'll get back every penny of your initial investment, at the very least. And we can also guarantee that there are no charges - and, for basic rate tax payers, no tax liabilities.

If you want to benefit from the success of some of the top companies in the world, you need to act quickly. The World Guaranteed Equity Bond is a strictly limited offer available on a first come first served basis. Ask for your information pack today.

Call free on **0500 30 20 10**, quote ref. NL55
Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm, weekends 9am - 6pm.

It pays to decide...



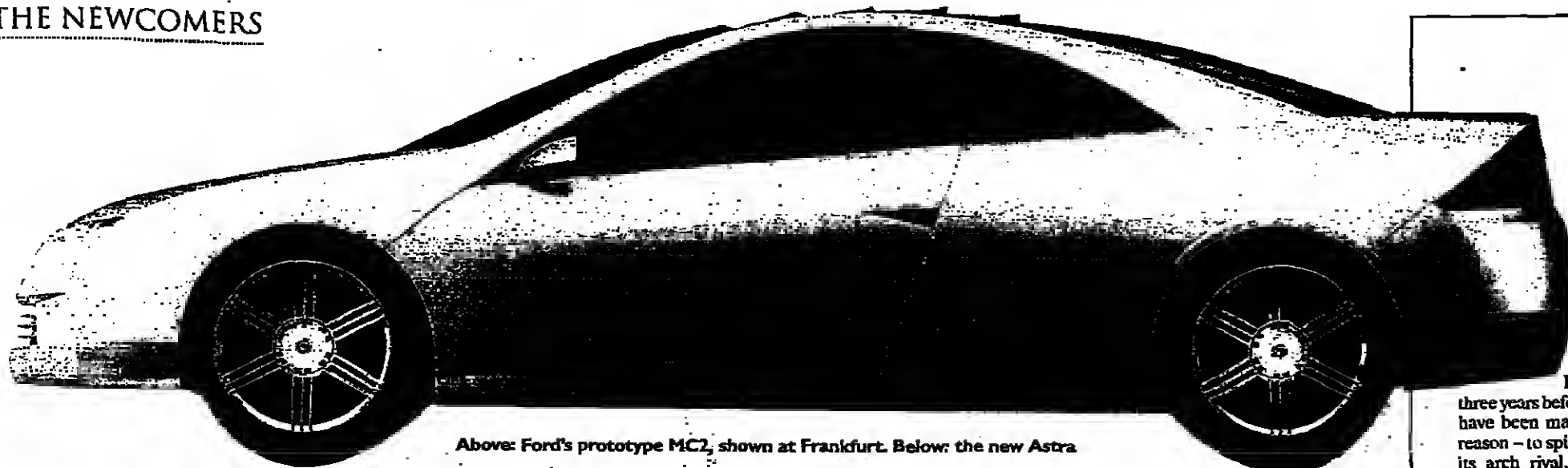
The World's No.1 Building Society

* Source: Moneyfacts from 3 August 1992 to 1 August 1997. FTSE 100 Index, 5000, 225 (The Nikkei 225 Index) from the World Guaranteed Equity Bond has a 5 year term and was launched in October 1993. DAX 30, CAC 40 and SMI. No income is payable as the Bond does not receive dividend income. Past performance is no guide to the future. The value of an investment depends on your individual circumstances and tax legislation may change in the future. All investments in the index are subject to the FTSE 100 Index. Nationwide Limited, Standard and Poor's is a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies (Inc). Deutsche Bank AG, Societe des Banques Francaises-Pare Reuter and Nippon Kasei, Shantung Inc, collectively called the "index sponsors". Nationwide Life Limited has obtained licences from the index sponsors to use such copyright in the creation of this product. The index sponsors do not accept any liability associated with this product. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide Life Limited and Nationwide Life Trust Managers Limited operate under the Nationwide Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for life insurance, pensions and unit trust products. Nationwide Life Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by the FSA. Nationwide Life Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nationwide Building Society. This product does not confer any membership rights in Nationwide Building Society. Nationwide Life Limited is registered in England No. 2319676. Registered Office: Nationwide House, Peters Way, Welton, Lincolnshire DN9 1WE.

Microbial **Bloomberg**

Drop top, drop dead

THE NEWCOMERS



Above: Ford's prototype MC2, shown at Frankfurt. Below: the new Astra

Coming to a showroom near you ...

A host of Britain's most popular cars will be replaced over the next year including the Escort, Astra and Golf, and there will also be new offerings from BMW, Porsche, Citroën, Renault, and even Skoda. Gavin Green reports on what's on offer



If you're about to buy a new Golf, Escort or Astra - don't. Or at least make sure you get a big discount. Along with a throng of other ageing cars, they are soon to be replaced by new and probably better cars. Indeed, the next 12 months will see more interesting new models than any year in history.

Last week's Frankfurt show previewed some. But many others are still secret. And the cars still under wraps vary from a new version of Britain's perennial bestseller, the Ford Escort, to a fresh iteration of that sporty style icon, the BMW 3-series.

The busiest segment for new car launches will be in the small family hatch sector, the biggest-selling class in Britain, as the three traditional top-selling models are belatedly pensioned off.

The new Escort takes its bow in a year's time. In line with recent Ford thinking, it is likely to be the boldest-styled car in the class - a far cry from the mediocre current model. Cabriolet and estate versions of the new Escort will come later; initially, we'll see only the hatch and saloon models.

The Escort's great rival, the Astra, is also ageing and incompetent; it is replaced next spring by a handsome if conservative car that promises great safety and fuel economy. It also sires a promising MPV offspring, the Zafira, which goes on sale next autumn.

Europe's best-selling car, the VW Golf, is replaced in the UK next year by the new version, previewed last week at Frankfurt.

It looks much like the old model - always a handsome car - but scores on extra safety and better economy. There will be three sporty versions of the new Golf: the turbo GTi, a VR5 and a VR6. The base model will cost £12,000 - a modest increase on the current vehicle, but good value considering its higher specification (which includes anti-lock brakes and twin airbags).

Still in the small family hatch class, Citroën's new Xsara hits the showrooms in November. It replaces the ZX, which did well in Britain, giving flair-free but reliable service. The Xsara is a car of the same breed: utterly anonymous but competent.

The recent Frankfurt show was full of baby hatches a class or two smaller than the Xsara or Escort; most are coming to the UK in the next year. The most intriguing, and expensive, is the new Mercedes A-class - a car of Metro external proportions but Mondeo space, thanks to its ingenious underfloor mechanicals. It arrives in the UK in spring, and costs from about £13,000. It is very likely the cleverest car concept we've seen in a decade.

More conventional, and probably more stylish, will be the new Renault Clio. Nicole's favourite hatchback gets revamped mid next year. It'll be safer, roomier and far more modern, but will retain its idio-

syncratic Gallic charm. Another French hatchback icon to be replaced next year is the Peugeot 205. Peugeot originally intended to replace the 205 jointly with the 106 and 306 models - one slightly smaller than the 205, one slightly bigger. But the world wanted a direct successor, and that's what we'll get when the new 206 is unveiled at next autumn's Paris show.

Even smaller is the new Fiat Seicento, Fiat's baby car replacement for the popular Cinquecento. The new Seicento (600) - rounder, roomier and more stylish than the old Cinquecento, though using most of the older car's mechanicals - will debut at next March's Geneva show.

Another sub-Fiesta-sized car due to be shown at the Geneva show is the new VW Lupo. It's mechanically very similar to the Arosa, made by VW's Spanish affiliate, Seat. It will rival the Ford Ka and the Fiat 600. VW is in for a busy year. On top of the new Golf and Lupo, it's also unveiling the new Beetle at the Detroit show in January. UK sales are likely to start in late '98. Round and cuddly like the old Beetle, the new one is nonetheless commendably hi-tech and shares most of its mechanicals with the old Golf.

The old BMW 3-series is one of those iconic cars that has retained its exclusi-

ty and class cachet, despite being as regular as Ray-Bans in England's more affluent areas. It's been a huge hit, although its popularity is starting to crumble, mainly to the benefit of the more modern Audi A4. The new 3-series aims to win back the deserters, plus a new breed of style-conscious suburbanites.

In typical BMW style, the new model looks rather like the old one, but sleeker and sportier. Picture a scaled-down version of the current 5-series, and you'll get the idea. Most of the mechanicals are carried over, including the usual range of gutsy fours and silky smooth straight-sixes.

Ford will hope to steal a few BMW buyers with its new Cougar coupé, its brother to the "Steve McQueen" Puma, which hits the streets next spring. It's based on the Mondeo, and uses both 2.0-litre four and V6 motors, but looks nothing like Ford's family favourite. It's a rakish, handsome car, which bears more than a passing resemblance to Ford's MC2 concept car at Frankfurt.

Heading further upmarket, we'll also see a revised and improved Aston Martin DB7 (using many Jaguar XK8 parts), the gorgeous Alfa 156 (set to give the new BMW 3-series a hard time), the Alfa 166 executive car (which replaces the 164, and goes on sale late next year), a bold-looking Audi coupé called the TT, an attractive 4x4 off-road Mercedes, the M-class, which will probably be vastly superior to the ageing Land Rover Discovery, and a new S-class, Mercedes' top-line model, due to be replaced in late '98. The new Porsche 911 debuts in the UK just after next month's London show. Most surprising new car of 1998 may be a Skoda. The old Skoda jokes are now about as funny as *Beavis and Butt-Head*. Since VW took control of the Czech company with the chequered past, quality has been excellent. But the best Skoda of all has yet to reach Britain. The new Octavia comes next June. It's as good as most rivals in the Mondeo/Vectra class, yet will come at a very much lower price.

GAVIN GREEN

Some big mistakes in the planning of a new small car

BMW's surprise decision to unveil the new Mini at last week's Frankfurt Show, three years before sales start, may have been made for the wrong reason - to spike the PR guns of its arch rival, Mercedes-Benz. More worrying, the new Mini may be wrong car for the new millennium.

To understand the BMW decision to show the car so early, cast your mind back to the Geneva Show in March, where Mercedes-Benz scored all the brownie points with its new A-class, lauded as the most innovative new small car since the original Mini. BMW directors were facing a similar PR disaster at Frankfurt. Europe's highest motor show, and what's more important, a show on home territory. Mercedes was due to unveil the Smart, the innovative little "city coupé" jointly funded by Saatchi, the watch people. Front page headlines were likely. Drastic action was needed. And taken.

BMW would take the wraps off its highest small-car gun - the new Mini Rover, now used to doing what it is told, was told to get a car ready only six weeks ago.

It worked. Even the German press who attended the press unveiling at a film studio in one of Frankfurt's scruffiest corners, swarmed all over the new Mini, and largely ignored BMW's other announcements - a new 400bhp V8 M5 super-saloon, the oddball half-car/half-bike C1, and the decision to supply Formula One engines to Williams from the year 2000. The Mini - probably the most eagerly anticipated new car in the world - was fêted like a new-age star.

Unfortunately - and this is where BMW has misused - it is not. It will no doubt sell in the required numbers - 100,000 worldwide, in countries including America, Australia, Japan

and Europe - to people who fancy a designer-accessory small car that's cute, pretty, fun to drive and has BMW-style kudos. Or at least it will for a few years. But for those who were hoping to see an inventive, forward-thinking car - as everyone who ventured to the Frankfurt press briefing were - the new Mini disappoints.

For all the BMW PR razzmatazz, the A-class and the Smart are vastly more far-sighted. Even the Rover engineers who conceived it seemed rather underwhelmed by it at Frankfurt. It's as though they, and their BMW masters, knew the enormity of the challenge - to replace an icon. And they copped out. The new Mini could be the product of any car maker - from Nissan to Ford - rather than the invention of the company with the heritage of the original Mini behind it. "We're hoping the next new Mini, after this one, will be really creative," said one, almost apologetically.

"We had a choice of two ways to go," said Rover design boss Geoff Upex, at Frankfurt. "We could have tried to reinvent the small car, as Sir Alec Issigonis did 40 years ago. Or we could have cre-

ated a car that carried over most of the Mini cues, but was much more modern and sporty, and more in tune with modern times. We chose the latter path."

You can't blame them. But with Mercedes in such a creative mood, and rivals Audi also unveiling a small car vastly more advanced than the new Mini, the AL2, there must be doubts whether the new Mini will be able to compete, at least in the long term. Few technical details were officially announced at Frankfurt, but it is known that the new Mini will use a choice of 1.4 and 1.6 four-cylinder motors, made at a joint venture Chrysler/BMW factory in Brazil. The engine is not especially high-tech, although it is allegedly very inexpensive to make. (Rover insiders imply that the current K-series, made in Britain, is a more advanced engine.)

The body will be steel, although there is talk - Smart-like - of the body panels being easily changed, so that an owner can change his or her car's colour. The springs will be conventional steel. Nur will the car be especially roomy, although it will be much better than the current Mini. BMW says style was especially important. "We didn't want a tall, dumpy-looking car," said one engineer, clearly taking a swipe at the Mercedes A-class.

It will be 3.6 metres long, which is about the length of the Rover 100/Metro (which the new Mini also replaces), and may be available in five-door hatch, as well as three-door guise.

There will be three basic versions: Mini, Cooper and Cooper S. Prices will start at about £12,000 in Europe, although the Cooper S will be nearer £14,000. In addition, there are likely to be pick-up, cabriolet and van offshoots. There's even talk of an old-style woody-wagon. Unlike the old Mini, the new one is a separate brand - it's not merely part of the Rover car range. Mini, like MG and Land Rover, is a marque unto itself. As such, it could be sold by Rover or BMW dealers. In America, it is likely to be through the latter.

Nine different designs were submitted, all from either from BMW or Rover. "The winning design was one of Rover's own," said Geoff Upex. "But we naturally incorporated some of the better ideas submitted by BMW." Amazingly, the car bears an uncanny resemblance to an old design done by Issigonis more than 30 years ago. The car will be made in Longbridge, Birmingham, with production starting in early 2000, and sales commencing later that year.

Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with a handsome, sporty, mechanically conservative little car. The world is full of such vehicles. But somehow the new Mini deserves to be more.

It is a product of a marketing

need and opportunity, at a time

when the world was looking for

and needs - a mechanical

breakthrough. Other companies

must now answer the call. Wor-

ryingly for BMW, and Rover,

some appear to be doing so.

PEUGOT 406 COUPE

Looking good for a lot less dosh

The new Peugeot 406 Coupé passes the most important test of any coupé: it feels fast and looks glamorous. John Simister gives the 2.0-litre version the road-test lowdown, and finds a good-value, good-quality ride

A colleague of mine took a Peugeot 406 Coupé home on trial a few nights ago. She parked it outside her house as usual, but kept sneaking to the window to steal another look. She was smitten.

The Peugeot, then, passed the test to which every coupé, by virtue of what it is, must take. A coupé which looks like a frump has missed the point. If you buy a coupé you are paying more for less, in quantitative terms, but you are gaining in style. A coupé should look like an extravagance. The Peugeot does it well. It didn't mat-

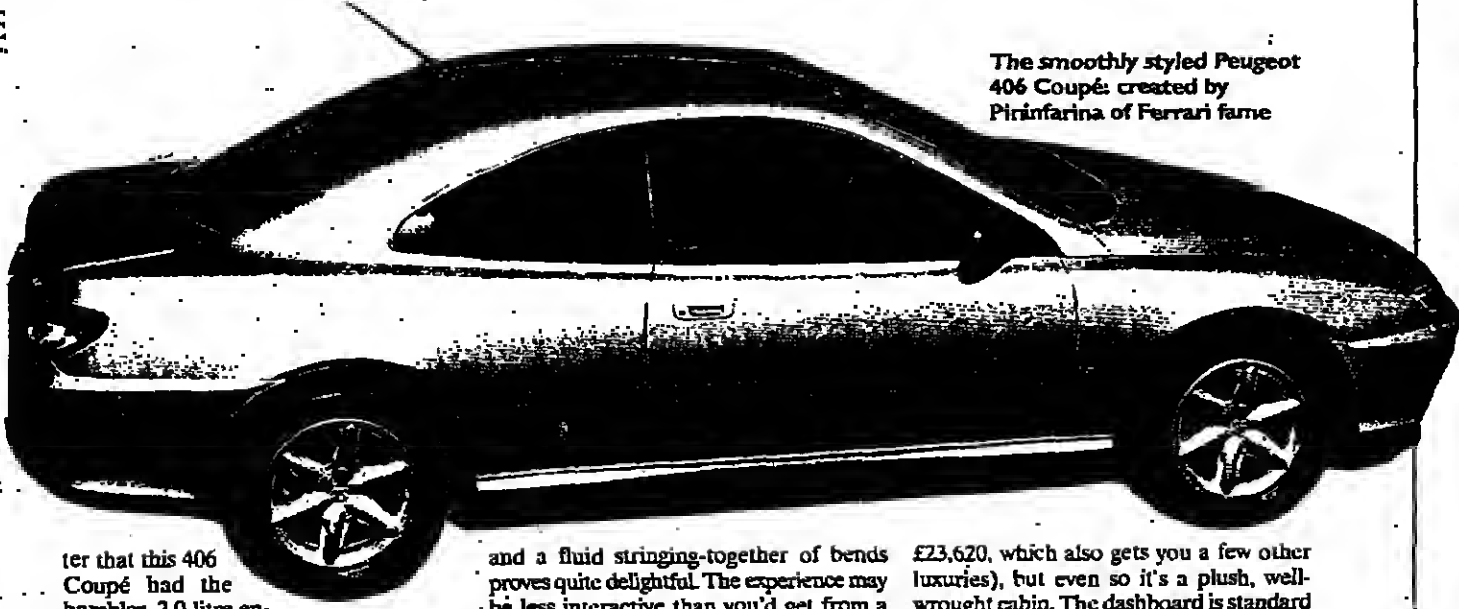
ter that this 406 Coupé had the banisher, 2.0-litre engine of the two on offer, rather than the more muscular 3.0-litre V6. The two cars have little more than wheel and tyre size differences to distinguish them otherwise. The shape is subtle, with no sharp edges but enough tension to make it seem to be moving. Now, it would be sad if it proved a pudding to drive, but I'm pleased to report that the Peugeot passes this test, too. I've always liked the way 406s move along. That said, it doesn't cushion its occupants from bumps quite as well as its saloon sibling. The wider wheels and lower-profile tyres are to blame, but they prove their worth when the road twists. Vigorous grip, crisper steering than the saloon,

and a fluid stringing-together of bends proves quite delightful. The experience may be less interactive than you'd get from a BMW 3-series Coupé, say, as the Peugeot is pulled by its front wheels, but ultimately it will corner faster and feel more secure.

The V6, in particular, has rather good brakes as well - large Brembo units which bring this 406 to a halt more smoothly and less smudgily than those of lesser versions. And it is genuinely fast, its 194bhp rising from a deep growl to a refined but slightly busy blare. The 2.0-litre version can't compete, but is still no visual charlatan.

Unlike some coupés, the 406 is a feasible four-seater thanks to rear seats recessed to give sensible headroom. Leather trim comes only with the Executive version of the V6 (£26,420 against the regular V6's

The smoothly styled Peugeot 406 Coupé created by Pininfarina of Ferrari fame



MY WORST CAR

Drop top, drop dead looks, and dropping bits underneath



Ups and downs: the Triumph Vitesse

It was deep blue with a cream soft-top, and seemed to have everything... two-litre engine, overdrive and window stickers from Biarritz. The night we bought our second-hand Triumph Vitesse we tried the ton on a remote stretch of the M4. Once was enough. That baby sure flew... up and down. We went to Cornwall and the prop shaft came adrift. Up the M6 to Manchester and a front wheel bearing had to be replaced. Still, with the hood down, on a summer's day, it had glamour, albeit of the rough and ready British Leyland kind. Arriving at one's destination ooc out

a dash in the sleek open-top roadster with the gorgeous double headlights, though the next few hours tended to be spent recovering from the buffeting of the wind and grooming knotted hair. One week-end Yorkshire beckoned. It was too much for our car, which mysteriously developed a jammed valve, and bent pushrod. Some months later serious rust became apparent. Valuations to the Vitesse. The unlucky buyer said he wanted it because he had in drive from London to north Wales every weekend. I stifled my laughter.

— Francis Jezewski

MOTORING

Citroen	Volkswagen	Registration Numbers
Save £3,750! Citroen Synergie SX TD Five Seater People Carrier, "R" Reg in Royal Blue Metallic A wonderful combination of economy, performance and versatility. Twin sun roofs, swivel front seats, two additional seats optional. Call 01442 871234 (Main Dealer)	Save £7,500! Citroen XM V2X 2.5 TD Executive Car, "R" Reg in Quartz Silver Metallic Superb space, comfort, safety and road holding. Ex-works mileage only, 15,000. Full main warranty. The 2.5 Turbo Diesel delivers 217 bhp & 104 torque at just 2,000 rpm. Call 01442 871234 (Main Dealer)	MARKET RESEARCH 30 DAISY HILL DRIVE, CHORLEY PR. ONE ABA 87 1550 EPT 458 800 LK 288 1000 884 RH 3000 AJN 289 2500 ESB 74 1800 792 LMT 1400 882 ROD 2000 ALV IN 5000 FAZ 22 1800 LRP 227 1500 ROG RBR 1000 B4 DCO 5000 FEC 871 1000 LS 772 2200 RR 3788 2800 BND COMPANY FLS 32 1700 E2 MA 6000 SAG 195 1800 B27 BAR 1800 GIL 56 2200 MESA 800 830 SM POA 20 BEA 2200 GDO GJH POA NH 270 4400 3333 SM POA B7H BH 1500 GOW 257 1000 MS 59 7000 8985 SM 5000 B44 RLD 1000 MJN 882 1200 57 5233 POA BL 762 700 MW 9428 2000 8 TES 2800 60 BYK 1000 (HAROLD) HAZ 55 1800 NC 1 2250 252 TMA 1000 HD 8468 1400 NECHT 4000 600 LCK 700 HO 905 1000 OTT 77 500 UF 4 3000 CGW 680 1800 HR 89 3000 D777 PAT 800 GI USA 2500 30 CLM 2800 377 JH 2400 PCS 88 2800 HARLEY O'SON 432 CR 2300 JJ 8708 2400 SSS3 PP 1500 VER 988 1250 170 DA 1400 882 JW 3400 7 PW 1000 VERMONT BAJ 528 DMD 2000 KDL 353 1000 RAP 40X 800 WJN 91 1450 DS 8858 1800 LAZ 7 2500 RBR 938 145 100K 6000 5347 DW 2500 LAZ 71 1500 RBD 750 2000 NEW JAG XQ 584 ECR 800 LAZ 77 1000 TCM 718 2200 XJH 4 1500 PHONE 01252 482305 PHONE 01252 474745 FAX 01252 474745 ALL ARE PLUS V.A.T.

To advertise in this section please

call the Motoring Team on 0171

293 2338.

10/PROPERTY

HOME FRONT

Fired up with a passion for flame (repro if necessary)

A roaring fire is a superb asset but in some houses, it's just not feasible to have naked flames licking away. In National Fireplace Month, Rosalind Russell looks at some other ways of getting some natural warmth into your home

There's nothing like an old flame to take the chill out of an autumn evening. When singer-songwriter Peter "She's A Lady" Skellern and his wife Diana moved into their waterside home in Fowey, Cornwall, putting in a fire was one of the first changes they made.

It was a challenge for the installer, as access is down steep steps, the nearest parking was a quarter of a mile away and heavy goods have to be delivered by boat.

The Skellerns consider their gas-fired Jetmaster well worth the effort. And now, in National Fireplace Month (you hadn't noticed?) the trade association

hopes everyone else will feel the same. "A fireplace certainly makes it easier to sell a house, be it medieval or modern," says Martin Phillips, of Phillips & Stubbs estate agents in Kent. "Who wants to sit on a sofa staring at a blank wall?"

Fireplaces virtually disappeared during the Eighties when developers running on a tight profit margin regarded a fireplace as an optional extra. Fortunately, if you now regret having no focal point in the sitting room, other than the TV, having no chimney doesn't rule out having a fire. Some gas fires use a fan to draw the gas through the wall vent to outside air. Glass-fronted, enclosed solid fuel fires can have a cast iron flue running up the wall and vented through the roof. Connected warm-air units will give more heat for your money. You can have a complete chimney system installed, but you wouldn't get any change from £1,000, before you start looking at fireplaces.

Real fires, says Liz Martin of Amazing Grates in London, are making a comeback.

"Before, 95 per cent of people who bought a fireplace had a gas coal-effect fire. Now I would say 25 per cent intend to have a real fire. There's nothing like one."

A good quality pine mantel, with gas coal fire and hearth will cost around £750, but they go up to £1,500 for something like a rare serpentine mantel fireplace made in 1851 for the Great Exhibition in London. At the Antique Fireplace Warehouse, a classic Victorian marble surround will cost from £395, plus VAT, delivery and installation, but go up to £6,000 for something very grand, called The Windsor. Stucco surrounds are expensive in natural Portland or Bath stone, but reconstructed stone reduces the price by about half. Cast-iron inserts, baskets, firebacks and hearths all cost extra.

For information on the National Fireplace Association, current yearbook 0800 521611. Solid Fuel Association 0800 600 000. Amazing Grates 0181 883 9590. The Antique Fireplace Warehouse 0171 627 1410.



Far left: serpentine mantel fireplace made for the Great Exhibition. Top right: repro of mid-18th century English hand carved fireplace in marble. Below right, 19th century Belgian chimneypiece in Sicilian marble

TEL: 0171 293 2222

PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

London Property

London Property

London Property

To Let

To Let

DANIEL Watney

The Professional Residential Letting & Management Service

With over 130 years of local experience you can trust Daniel Watney to look after your property.

We already let and manage a wide residential portfolio and due to recent demand urgently require more quality properties in and around the City.

For advice on all aspects of residential letting and management do contact us.

DANIEL WATNEY
The Charterhouse
Charterhouse Square
London EC1M 6AP

Fax: 0171 608 0117
Telephone: 0171 253 4414

CLERKENWELL BARBICAN
ISLINGTON CITY WEST END

3 bedrooms and 3 storeys - YOUR TOWNHOUSE IN N4.

Imagine - attractive, brand new, 3-storey townhouses conveniently situated in N4. No wonder they're proving so successful. Mind you, our amazing 'Arrival' package could have something to do with it. Each home comes with a generous amount of points to spend on a range of floor coverings, curtains and furniture at no extra cost. Move in and feel completely at home.

**MIDDLETON GRANGE,
Green Lanes, N4**
3 bedroom Ghermer homes from £158,500
Other house types available shortly.
Sales Office Open
Daily 10am - 5pm
Tel: 0181 800 2425

Old Clerkenwell
Unusual 2 Bed Flat.
Very light and airy.
Good cupboard and storage space (loft).
Accessed by stairs
hence £165k
No Chain.
0171 250 3957

Stirling Ackroyd
Pre-sale of first
five shell units in
major new loft
development on
Clerkenwell/
Islington border.
Completion spring
1998
Tel: 0171 251 0770

Live/Work
London Fields East
(London Lane, Hackney 'Es.)

open days
Saturday 10.30am - 1.30pm
Sunday 12.30pm - 3.30pm
An exciting new
development of genuine
live/work buildings
with double height
ceilings available in
shell condition with
private parking.
PRICES FROM £65,000 (excl. VAT)

A NEW STYLE OF LIVING ON THE NORTH BANK SW1

PRESTIGIOUS HOUSES
FOR THE DISCERNING EXECUTIVE
Belwind Place. Eight prestigious houses offering premier security and garage parking in SW1. Four-bedrooms properties are available for rental now from around £1,000 per week exclusively through Chestertons Residential.

CHESTERTONS
0171 834 9998

ST. JAMES SQUARE, SW1 ROSE & CROWN YARD

NEW APARTMENTS TO LET IN THE
HEART OF THE WEST END

- BUILT TO HIGH SPECIFICATION
- 1, 2 & 3 BEDROOM
- GARAGING, VIDEO ENTRY & ALARM
- FROM £400 PER WEEK

TEL: 0171-403 3030

Q.E.S. FLAT MANAGEMENT LTD
1 THE CIRCLE,
QUEEN ELIZABETH ST,
LONDON, SE1

Poole

Norfolk/Suffolk

POOLE, DORSET
Large architecturally designed property, built and owned by major family since 1928. Charming character, family house, letting potential.
5 rooms, 2,100 sq ft with ample storage, double garage, large garden.
£250,000 a.s.p.
Tel: 01202 667092 anytime

NORFOLK/SUFFOLK BORDERS
Spacious detached brick/stone house in conservation village between Diss and Bury St. Edmunds. Rebuilt 20 years ago, retaining many original features. Four bedrooms, central heating and open fire, two bathrooms, fitted kitchen. Small, mature garden, brick double garage.
Whole property well maintained. £137,500
Tel: 01379 687260 for details

WS GARDEN SD 4 bed, 3 rec + conserv, studio, terr £1750pw Tel: 0171 570 4194 (No agents)

Balearic Isles

N.W. MAJORCA
LUXURY 5 bed, traditional stone - village house, sunny terrace with lawn and magnificent mountain scenery. Modern amenities include central heating, satellite TV, dishwasher. Consider swap for London house or available for rent or sale. Photos with detailed description and prices available to serious readers.
Tel: 0181 473 4198

Overseas Property

MOWLEM
Exclusive golf and country club properties

Algarve • Portugal
From £80,000 to £500,000
Viewing weekends available

Contact us now for brochure

Tel: 01737 212259 Fax: 01737 220055
e-mail: aldo@mail.mowlem.pl
internet: http://www.mowlem.pl.com/also

ALTO
Golf & Country Club

andalucia/las alpujarras

Among mountains above Rio Guadalequiv with views of storms to north and south, about hour's drive from Almuñecar and Granada. In centre of own estate on 3 acres of superbly landscaped grounds. Large 8 x 4.5 m living room with hooded enclosed wood stove, French windows, open plan fully furnished kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, utility, 6.5 x 4.2 m downstairs room with storehouse. Central heating and hot water from Janders and solar panel with immersion heater. 165 m² total floor area. Large forecourt, south-facing terrace, ample parking. Pool, 6th pond, satellite dish, Over 100 built-in items of 20 varieties, vice-versa. Near International School.
£125,000
Tel: 01379 687260 for details

Sell your home for as little as £50 per advertisement

THE INDEPENDENT
INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

Advertise your property through the Independent and Independent on Sunday's highly successful Property Gallery; a marketplace that is tried, tested and works. The advertisement appears in the Saturday Your Money or the Sunday Business sections. Your property will appear in the format shown here, with 40 words of description complemented by a full colour photograph of your home.

The Cost

The more advertisements you book, the cheaper the cost per ad:-

- 1 x Advertisement costs £95
- 2 x Advertisements cost £130 (£65 each)
- 3 x Advertisements cost £150 (£50 each)

Fill in this coupon and send payment, a colour photograph and up to 40 words of copy to: The Property Team, Classified Advertising, 19th Floor, Independent Newspaper, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

Deadline for receipt of copy/photo is at least 4 working days prior to publication.
Offer open to private advertisers only, commercial advertising package available on request.

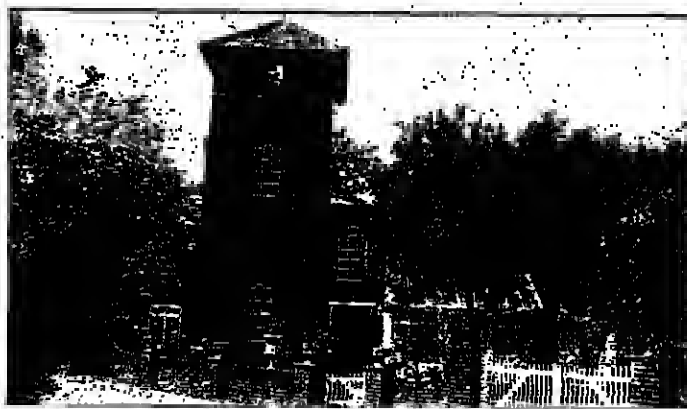
NAME _____ TELEPHONE (daytime) _____
ADDRESS _____
I require ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 (tick appropriate box) Advertisement(s) at a total cost of £ _____
Please enclose a cheque for this amount made payable to 'Newspaper Publishing Plc' or fill in your Visa/Access/Amex/Debit Card details.
CREDIT CARD NO. _____ EXPIRY DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____
For advice or more information please call 'The Property Team' on 0171-293 2343 or 0171-293 2302

0171 403 0500

... and three to keep the home fires burning



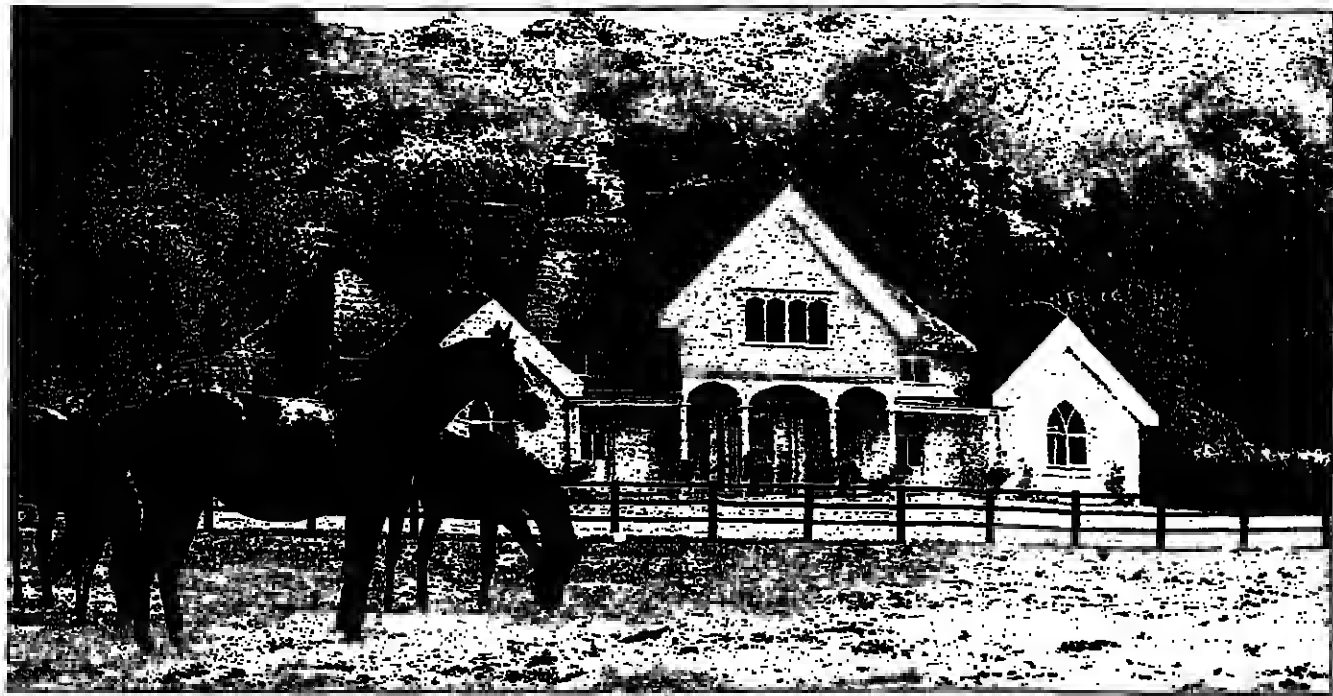
The Temple of Pan, a Grade II* listed folly is one of several built on the Halswell Estate near Taunton in Somerset, and the only one which will be in private ownership. It was put on the market as a derelict building last year, but has been restored and converted into four-bedroom home. Work was done in consultation with English Heritage and the drawing room has been fitted with a Hamstone Gothic style fireplace with brick lining. The sitting room has a plain Victorian marble mantelpiece. For sale through Jackson-Stops for £485,000 (01823 325144).



The Water Tower, a converted Victorian tower on the Craigwell Manor estate near Chichester, is on a footpath leading to the beach of Aldwick Bay. Built of industrial brick, decorated with stilted arches, it was converted in 1984 when the water tank was removed. The 23ft sitting room was given an Adam style fireplace with marble hearth and a gas log effect coal fire. Now with three bedrooms, a tower room (currently fitted as a gym) and conservatory, it is for sale through GA Town & Country for £250,000 (01243 826311).



The Quarter House, near Tenterden in Kent, is a Grade II listed thatched house with a couple of fireplaces wide enough for the stoniest Santa. The one in the drawing room of the 15th century three-bedroom house is more than nine feet wide so the owners have been able to fit in an old wooden settle within the brick hearth. The dining room fireplace is a more modest 6ft3ins wide. The two-and-a-half acre gardens include traditional cottage plants like honeysuckle, foxgloves, cow parsley and plum and damson trees. For sale through Phillips & Stubbs for £265,000 (01797 227338).



Kingston Grove: spacious living for £6,000 a month

Photograph: John Lawrence

A grand vista opens for renting

Renting is back in fashion, despite, or because of, relentlessly rising prices. Penny Jackson considers the plums on offer

To many the scramble to buy a home shows a streak of Eighties madness, when renting was regarded as almost irresponsible. But the rental sector has evolved. Far from faltering as the sales market in London and the south east gained momentum, as many feared, it has continued to flourish and is no longer regarded as a second-rate option. Penny Parr-Head, Central London lettings director for Hamptons International, sees the rental sector as finally having come of age. "It has been taken over in such an extent by investors, particularly from overseas, that it is now far more independent of the sales

market. This has encouraged more people here to become landlords," she says. "The big difference is that in the Eighties they were trying to make money from their own homes by constantly trading up."

Those whose fingers were burned and became reluctant landlords are a dwindling band as properties regain their former value. Hamptons find with the 10 London properties that on average they are losing to sales each month, others more committed to long-term letting are waiting to step in, even though rental yields in London have fallen to 8 per cent, almost their all-time 1989 low, according to Savills Research.

"Among them are a growing number of parents who want to combine investment with the needs of their offspring," says Ms Parr-Head. "I had someone the other day with a 12-year-old buying a flat

for his use as a student."

While most parents might prefer to see the offer of a university place first, in cities like Nottingham, terrace houses are being snapped up by small investors. In some cases, students themselves are raising the money to buy. The same story is being repeated in university towns across the country where there is a shortage of accommodation. The willingness of banks and building societies to give loans and the poor returns on savings elsewhere have fuelled this trend. Black Horse Agencies has for the first time produced a residential lettings report, similar to its successful Home Report, which gives the national average time it takes to let a property (four weeks); average rental yield by area; average rental values and a tenant profile. It shows the highest yield available is from letting a flat in the South-west. It also

shows that 27 per cent of tenants were previously home owners and well over half of those are families and couples. The shortage of family houses means that even though prices are rising people are continuing to sell while the going is good and rent before buying again.

That is particularly true of those moving from town to country, which is in turn putting a premium on country houses. "Many owners who might have let their houses while going abroad are selling because they are being offered such whacking good prices," says Anna Sugden of Suratt & Parker. She also finds that the new safety regulations are making it very difficult for owners to let their property furnished. Those who want to hang on to their homes and are aiming for the corporate market have to lavish a great deal of money on a house if they want top prices. Hamp-

tons, which is marketing Kingston Grove, Oxfordshire, (above) says the owners have extensively refurbished it with a new kitchen, bathrooms and expensive carpets and curtains. Since it is in more than an acre of grounds with a heated pool, yet close to London, it is likely to be let as a weekend house, for £5,950 a month. It is in these sought-after spots close to good transport links that tenants are beginning to press for agreements that give them security of tenure. In the past eight months, Parr-Head has seen an increasing interest in premium leases, which means a tenancy is guaranteed for a specified period, such as three years, in return for the whole rent in advance.

"Far from wanting flexibility, these tenants want the peace of mind that comes with knowing the landlord cannot get them out. Landlords like it too."

THE LANDLORD'S STORY: 'FOOLED BY PERSUASIVE MARKETING'

Kittni Chan placed the management of her flat in Weston-Super-Mare with a letting agency.

When the tenants moved out last year they had caused extensive damage to carpets, curtains and doors as well as leaving dilapidated furniture. I had instructed the agents to make reparation

from the deposit but found out they had allowed the tenant to use this for the last month's rent. I also discovered that they had failed to get the gas fires checked and that there was a leak. I was unable to pursue an insurance claim because the paperwork had been lost by the agents. I was paying 17 per cent for this service and had been fooled by persuasive marketing.

THE TENANT'S STORY: 'A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN'

Sarah Foster has a flat in Croydon.

It was disastrous from the beginning, when the agency put enormous pressure on me to commit myself within 24 hours. On the day I took it over, I found the previous tenant had not moved her things out. The flat was filthy and I had to clean it myself. The gas meter had

been removed because bills had not been paid so I had no hot water or heating. After the agents broke numerous appointments to let the engineer into the flat I became desperate. I couldn't take any more time off work. It was eventually done at 10 at night. The boiler blew up three weeks ago and still hasn't been mended properly. Nor do I have a proper contract.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

New Homes

New Homes

New Homes

Services

The luxury homes selection in the South East



Illustration shows 'The George' 4 bedroom detached home at Warrington.

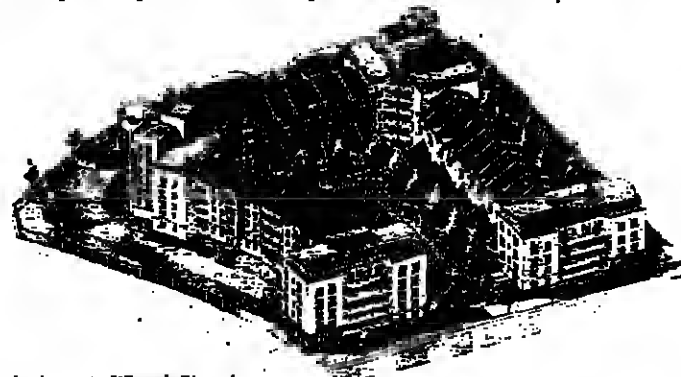
WARRINGLID
'Kings Place'
Off Orchard Way
Off Brighton Road

4 & 5 bedroom detached homes with double garage available from **£225,000**
Sales Office and Showhome open Thursday to Monday 10.00am - 5.00pm
Tel: 01444 461082

EPSOM
'Abelea Green'
Off Dorking Road

4 & 5 bedroom detached homes available from **£193,000**
Sales Office open daily 10.00am - 5.00pm
Tel: 01372 748122

KINGSTON - UPON - THAMES
'Canbury Place'
Skerne Road off Kings Road
2 bedroom apartments available from **£152,000**
3 bedroom town houses available from **£250,000**
For both Kingston developments please contact 'Canbury Place' marketing suite open daily 10.00am - 5.00pm. Tel: 0181 541 0840



SURREY QUAYS
'Canada Waters'
Canada Street
2 bedroom apartments **COMING SOON**
Sales Office open daily 10.00am - 5.00pm
Tel: 0171 394 9589

REDDHILL
'Knights Place'
Off Cavendish Road
2 bedroom apartments available from **£79,000**
3 bedroom town houses available from **£169,000**
Sales Office open daily 10.00am - 5.00pm
Tel: 01737 760794

WANTED! SHOW KITCHENS!

We are currently expanding across the country, and we genuinely require a limited number of householders - sorry no tenants - to be showhomes. All you have to do is submit your kitchen as a fraction of the true cost, to allow Focal Point to show a maximum of 6 potential customers around your kitchen within 2 months.

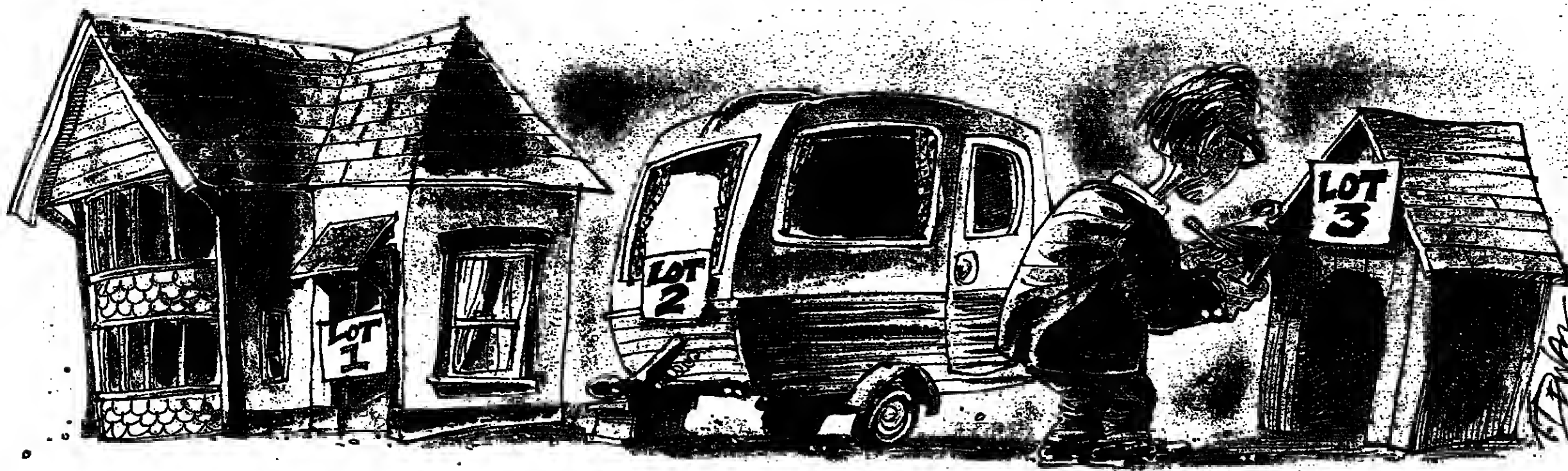
If you genuinely want to modernise your kitchen - **DON'T DELAY - PHONE NOW!**

01527 29404
ASK FOR MARKETING MANAGER CHRIS PLUMMER
Focal Point Kitchens Ltd
FOR QUALITY AND SERVICE YOU CAN RELY ON

WITHDRAWN
X
If an ad misleads, we've have to stamp it out.
Advertising Standards Authority
2 Thompson Place London WC1E 7HY 0171 560 5255 <http://www.asa.org.uk>

Persimmon

How to track down homes under the hammer



To many of our customers, thrifty is what comes after forty-nine.

Penny-pinching.

Miserly. Tight. Close with money. Recognise

yourself? Don't worry, nor would many of our

customers. Not that you or they are feckless,

irresponsible spendthrifts either. The truth is, most of

us are somewhere in the middle. We know we should

give some thought to the future, make our hard-earned

money work a little harder for us. But the language of savings and

investments doesn't make it easy for you. It's either dire threats

about rainy days and hard times ahead, or reams of eye-glazing

financial gobbledegook. It doesn't have to be like this. And at Barclays, it isn't. There is

nothing dull, for instance, about our limited offer **Fixed Rate Savings Bonds Issue 11.**

(Apart, that is, from the name.) They are part of a range of savings schemes we offer and

the beauty of these is that you have a choice of term length. The longer you save, the more interest

you earn (7.00% for 3 years, 6.90% for 2 years and 6.80% for 1 year p.a. gross*). And you can take the

interest monthly, annually or in one lovely lump sum at the end. All you need to get started is £2,000

and a chat with us. And that's it. Except to say that the genuinely

thrifty among you can call us on **0800 400 100** absolutely free.



BARCLAYS

it's happening again. Soaring house prices are forcing many home-buyers to settle for less space, or to head for auctions in search for a bargain. Rachel Fosen warns against some of the services claiming to help them.

Loodoo harrister Stewart Room is trying to buy a house in north London. "House prices are rising more than people's incomes are and that's a worry, because at the end of the day, you've got less to buy with," he says.

As long as the type of home you want stays within the price band you can afford, there's little problem. "It's when it goes outside the band that you get the concern," Mr Room says.

On average, prices are now between 6 and 7 per cent higher than last year, according to Gary Marsh, head of corporate affairs at Halifax. "We expect that to continue next year," he adds. But this national average hides sky-rocketing prices in London, where houses are up between 15 and 20 per cent.

Panic that they might be priced out of the market is driving many people to go downmarket, looking for bargain homes at auctions. But for many potential buyers, finding out just where the properties are going to be sold and when can be a headache. Auctions seem to be like buses: there may be one for weeks at a time and then several come along all at once.

To cater for this growing interest, new services listing repossessions going under the hammer are springing up as buyers prepare to save money by doing some of their own re-

ovation. Property pages are dotted with advertisements for services offering lists of repossessions and other properties up for auction, often claiming bargains can be had.

The Property Network sends out via fax a list of houses and flats up for auction according to region. Some are repossessions. The list gives brief details of the property, date of auction, and a contact number for the estate agent handling viewing. The list is updated once a week.

The Fax Back Property Index is another service which, by area, gives details and contact numbers for cheaper properties that need doing up and are being sold through estate agents.

Both of these services cost £1.50 per minute. The first service sent your reporter nine pages of details for the London region, costing about £12 in phone charges. The second service sent out three pages listing properties in Yorkshire, including an index sheet, and this cost £18 because it was much slower.

While services like these save you some legwork, you can usually get information about houses up for auction free of charge by contacting auctioneers, or high street estate agents directly.

And the Fax Back Property Index, while it was still trading under its old name of the Repossessed Properties Index, has twice been investigated by the telecom watchdog ICSTIS (the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services).

In March, complaints that it took over 20 minutes to receive five pages of information led to a fine of £2,500. In July it was investigated for, among other things, misleading advertising as not all properties on the list were repossessions. It was fined £5,000.

Be prepared before you make that bid

The last property auction I attended was a few years ago. Two near-identical flats in the same block, both of which I had viewed, were up for auction.

Except that one looked as if it had been redecorated by someone who had gulped down a bowl of illegal substances for breakfast. It had also been extensively vandalised.

The much better flat went for £60,000. The second, psychodically decorated one came up. It finally sold for £72,000.

Later, when I spoke to the buyer of the second flat, I discovered he had not even looked

at it before bidding. Nor had he discussed a loan with a lender.

Before you bid, carry out all necessary surveys on the property, but also sort out how you will pay for it. Take your time and do the research thoroughly. Choose a lender who can move swiftly: completion is usually 28 days from the auction date.

-Nick Gault

'The Independent' has just published a free 27-page Guide to Mortgages, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages. For your copy, call 0800 585691. Or fill in the coupon on page 4.

IN SEARCH OF A BARGAIN BASEMENT

Are repossessions a bargain, anyway? Duncan Moir, auctioneer at Allsop & Co, says: "The volume that goes out at an auction may make people think they are bargains. Part of the appeal is that you know exactly where you are. You are only bidding £500 more than the next person."

The downside is that you have to buy unconditionally, which means paying for your survey and local authority search beforehand. Prices at auction can even be higher than through an estate agent. You can pick up cheap properties but they may have

been empty for a while, or you may have to take a leasehold property with an absentee landlord.

Duncan Moir says that the best service listing properties up for auction is Faxwise. For £100 plus VAT, Faxwise gets all catalogues of property auctions sent to you for three months with guide prices where available, and on the night of the sale it sends out the auction results. Auctioneers say that as much as 60 per cent of properties sold now go to private buyers. Faxwise: 0171-720 5000; Allsop & Co: 0171-494 3686.

*Gross rate: interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers subject to the required certification, and on all Fixed Rate Savings Bonds of £50,000 or more. Otherwise income tax will be deducted at the lower rate, but may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. Limited issue Bonds are subject to availability. Interest rates quoted are for interest paid annually. Barclays Bank PLC. Reg. No. 1026167. Registered in England. Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH. Barclays Bank PLC is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (UK branches only).